

AN EXAMINATION OF
THE DOCTRINE OF

ETERNAL SECURITY



Pastor Randy Shupe

AN EXAMINATION OF
THE DOCTRINE OF
**ETERNAL
SECURITY**

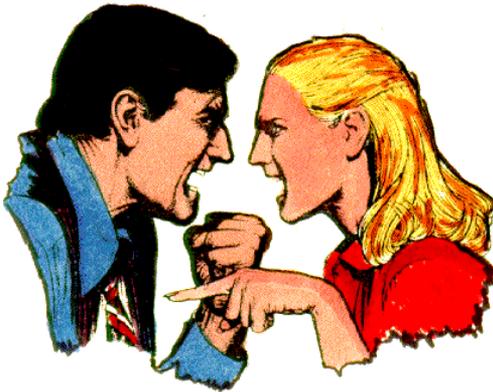


Pastor Randy Shupe

**COPYRIGHTED 2008
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

**“THE DOCTRINE OF ETERNAL SECURITY
IS RAPIDLY BECOMING ONE OF
THE CORE ISSUES OF CONFLICT
WITHIN THE BODY OF CHRIST.”**

Pastor Randy Shupe



The question that must be asked and answered is:

**IS THE DOCTRINE OF
ETERNAL SECURITY**

UNCONDITIONAL

**“NOT LIMITED BY CONDITIONS OR STIPULATIONS,
FREE FROM RESTRICTIONS”**

(Webster)

OR IS ETERNAL SECURITY

CONDITIONAL

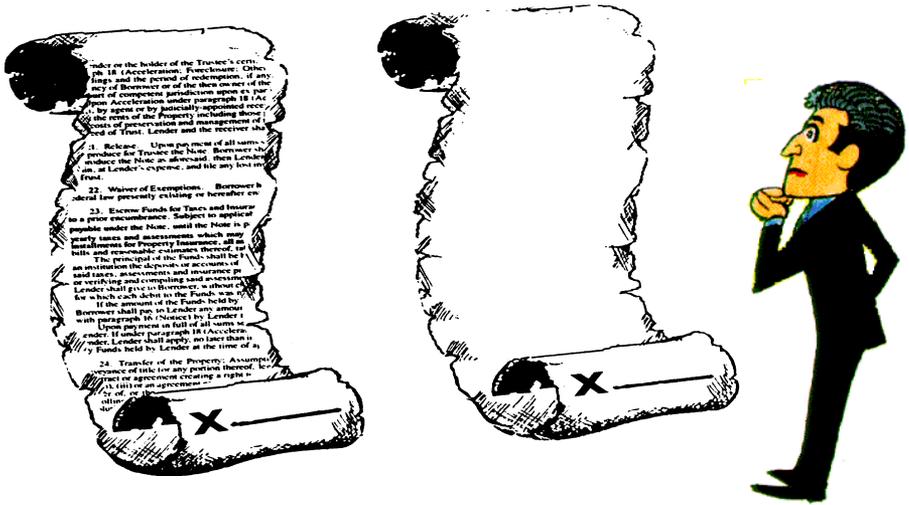
**“SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS, REQUIREMENTS,
LIMITED BY SPECIFIED RESTRICTIONS”**

(Webster)

**“MUCH CONFUSION
HAS BEEN WROUGHT
IN BIBLE EXPOSITION
AND MUCH DAMAGE
DONE TO CHRISTIANITY,
BY THE CARELESS HABIT
OF CONCENTRATING ON
AN ISOLATED VERSE
OF SCRIPTURE,
WITH NO PROPER REFERENCE
TO ITS RELATIONSHIPS.
THE CONTEXT IS OFTEN
A SUFFICIENT COMMENTARY
ON A DIFFICULT VERSE.
NO SOLITARY,
MINUTE PORTION
CAN BE EXPECTED TO
YIELD ITS MEANING
WITHOUT A
FULL CONSIDERATION
OF ITS ILLUMINATING
SURROUNDINGS.”**

Harold Horton-1934 Gifts of the Spirit

Most every one of us have at some time in our life been required to sign on the dotted line of a legal document or contract. Looking at the two examples below, I believe we would quickly acknowledge that we have never seen a legal contract as depicted on the right. Rather what we know to be correct is the one on the left which contains the terms, conditions and warranties which constitute that agreement between the two parties.



Perhaps, you also have experienced the agony and remorse which results from a careless failure to pay attention to the fine print which states all the “if’s, and’s and but’s” that place limitations and stipulations upon the agreement. No verbal agreement or implied warranty of the zealous salesman will override what is written on paper.

Even lifetime warranties contain a little clause stating that the warranty will be null and void through any act of negligence, abuse or misuse of the product. An unconditional contract is an oxymoron, it just does not exist!

In this booklet, we shall explore the divine contract of eternal security. The good news is that there is such an agreement between man and God. The bad news (for those who do not intend to follow God fully) is that it is a very conditional agreement. There is no such thing in God’s economy as unconditional eternal security. Such a promise does not exist in the written agreement for eternal security or for anything else God provides. All of God’s promises have conditions!

**"A
BINDING AGREEMENT,
A PROMISE
OF LEGAL VALIDITY,
A CONTRACT..."**

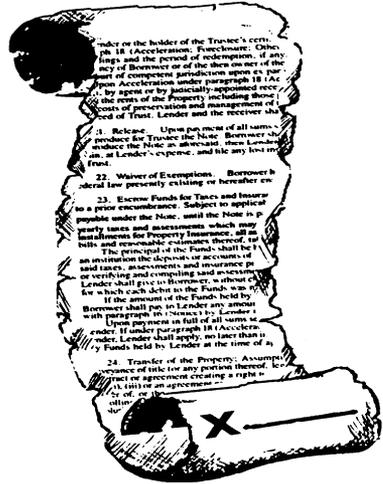
(Webster)

**"...HE (JESUS) IS
A MEDIATOR OF
A BETTER COVENANT,
WHICH WAS
ESTABLISHED ON
BETTER**

PROMISES"

Hebrews 8:6

THE NEW COVENANT



What is portrayed above is the acid test for any and all forms of doctrine, including eternal security.

Notice that a covenant is a legal contract. The New Covenant is a binding agreement upon God, but also binding, as we shall see, upon God's people.

The second thing we need to see from the above illustration is that the foundation of the New Covenant rests upon promises, just as did the Old Covenant. However, the New Covenant has better promises than the old. For instance, the Old Covenant had its laws written on stone tablets, but in the New Covenant He promised to "put His laws in our minds and write them on our hearts" (Heb. 8:10, 2 Cor. 3:3).

The importance of the promises of God cannot be over emphasized. Whatever we have received or ever will receive from God originates in His promises. How did you become saved? You laid hold of a promise pertaining to salvation such as:

"IF YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH THE LORD JESUS AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD HAS RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED."

Rom. 10:9

**NOTE
THE
CONDITIONS
ATTACHED TO
THE
PROMISE**

**“IF YOU CONFESS WITH
YOUR MOUTH
THE LORD JESUS
AND
BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART
THAT GOD HAS RAISED HIM
FROM THE DEAD,
YOU WILL BE SAVED.”**
Rom. 10:9

Ever heard this little spiritual jingle?



**“EVERY PROMISE IN THE BOOK IS MINE,
EVERY JOT, EVERY TITTLE, EVERY LINE...”**



That little jingle above expresses what must be a balanced perspective toward the promises of God. We cannot merely take out the promise from its contextual setting which often contains the conditions attached to the promise! We cannot obtain the provision of the promise apart from meeting the conditions God attaches to it!

It is the violation of this principle that gives birth to the concept of unconditional eternal security. The promises are being lifted out of the context containing the conditions. For an example, let us now inject one of the foundational “proof texts” used by proponents of the unconditional eternal security theory. By adding its contextual setting, we will see that it rather becomes a proof text for conditional eternal security. Here is how it is most often given:

**“AND I GIVE THEM ETERNAL LIFE,
AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH;
NEITHER SHALL ANYONE SNATCH
THEM OUT OF MY HAND.
MY FATHER, WHO HAS GIVEN THEM TO ME,
IS GREATER THAN ALL;
AND NO ONE IS ABLE TO SNATCH THEM OUT
OF MY FATHER’S HAND.”**

Jn. 10:28-29



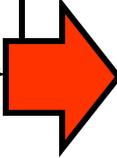
I draw your attention to the fact that this verse begins with the word “and” which connects it to the verse above which is the context of this verse. A verse starting with “and” demands a consideration of what precedes it.

Looking at these verses in their contextual setting, we find that there are five “and’s” to be considered:

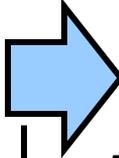
**“MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE,
AND
I KNOW THEM,
AND
THEY FOLLOW ME.
AND
I GIVE THEM ETERNAL LIFE,
AND
THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH; NEITHER SHALL
ANYONE SNATCH THEM OUT OF MY HAND.
MY FATHER, WHO HAS GIVEN THEM TO ME,
IS GREATER THAN ALL;
AND
NO ONE IS ABLE TO SNATCH THEM OUT OF
MY FATHER’S HAND.”**

Jn. 10:28-29

**the
CONDITIONS**



**the
PROMISES**



**“MY SHEEP
HEAR MY VOICE,
AND
I KNOW THEM,
AND
THEY FOLLOW ME.**

**AND
I GIVE THEM
ETERNAL LIFE,
AND
THEY SHALL NEVER
PERISH; NEITHER SHALL
ANYONE SNATCH THEM
OUT OF MY HAND.
MY FATHER, WHO HAS
GIVEN THEM TO ME,
IS GREATER THAN ALL;
AND
NO ONE IS ABLE TO
SNATCH THEM OUT OF
MY FATHER’S HAND.”**

The doctrine of unconditional eternal security can only be supported by separating the conditions from the promises! When they are allowed to remain joined together, we cannot but help to see that this is a **VERY CONDITIONAL PROMISE OF ETERNAL SECURITY!**

"ETERNAL LIFE TO THOSE WHO BY PATIENT CONTINUANCE IN DOING GOOD SEEK FOR GLORY, HONOR AND IMMORTALITY..."

Rom.2:7

ETERNAL SECURITY

BELONGS TO THOSE WHO ARE

ETERNALLY MINDED

Jesus promises eternal security to those who hear His voice and who follow Him-period! Multitudes of God's people, after having become born again, continue to practice lifestyles just like the children of Israel, "all we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned, every one, to his own way" (Isa. 53:6). The Holy Spirit sums up the multitude of the children of Israel with these words, "They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways" (Heb. 3:10). Verse 12 follows with this strong warning to New Covenant believers:

**"BEWARE, BRETHREN,
LEST THERE BE IN ANY OF YOU
AN EVIL HEART OF UNBELIEF
IN DEPARTING FROM THE LIVING GOD...
LEST ANY OF YOU BE HARDENED THROUGH THE
DECEITFULNESS OF SIN....
IF YOU WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR
HEARTS AS IN THE REBELLION"**

Heb. 3:12-13

God's beautiful promises of eternal security were never intended to be given to the backslider in heart. Eternal security belongs to those who remain eternally-minded! Those promises were never designed as an insurance policy to keep those bent on backsliding from eternal damnation! There are "sins leading to death", even for the saved (1 Jn. 5:16-17). We shall examine them later on. The solid foundation of God is not based upon unconditional eternal security. Paul is very clear as to what basis provides security:

**"...THE SOLID FOUNDATION OF GOD STANDS,
HAVING THIS SEAL: "THE LORD KNOWS THOSE WHO
ARE HIS", AND, "LET EVERYONE WHO NAMES THE
NAME OF CHRIST DEPART FROM INIQUITY."**

2 Tim. 2:19

When we apply the right interpretation of Scripture, we end up with harmony between the Scriptures rather than conflict. There is no conflicting positions in the Scriptures when we rightly divide the word of truth. Look at how the words of Paul harmonize with those of Jesus:

	<p>“...THE SOLID FOUNDATION OF GOD STANDS, HAVING THIS SEAL: “THE LORD KNOWS THOSE WHO ARE HIS”, AND, “LET EVERYONE WHO NAMES THE NAME OF CHRIST DEPART FROM INIQUITY.”</p> <p>2 Tim. 2:19</p>	<p>“MY SHEEP HEAR MY VOICE, AND I KNOW THEM, AND THEY FOLLOW ME.”</p> <p>Jn. 10:27-29</p>	
--	---	--	---

Where are they to follow Jesus? Psalm 23:3 tells us, “...He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.” Paul states it simply as, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ, depart from iniquity.” It is the same truth in different expressional terms, is it not? The promises of eternal security such as expressed by Jesus in John 10:27-29 are not spoken to those who do not intend to follow Christ or to hear His voice. All they want is to make sure they don’t end up in hell for their chosen life of sin. Eternal security is not for the worldly-minded. God never puts the backsliders at ease with words of comfort, but rather He always warns them with words that confront their sinful lifestyle:

<p>“ IF YOU ARE WILLING AND OBEDIENT, YOU SHALL EAT THE GOOD OF THE LAND ... IF YOU REFUSE AND REBEL, YOU SHALL BE DEVoured BY THE SWORD; FOR THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HAS SPOKEN.”</p> <p>Isa. 1:19-20</p>	<p>← (PROMISE That brings COMFORT)</p> <p>← (PROMISE that CONFRONTS)</p>
---	--

If God speaks in such a manner as above, why is it that so many of the ministers of God do not do the same? Why do they say words of comfort (like unconditional eternal security) to those who refuse and rebel to obey God?

Let us consider yet another passage of Scripture used by the proponents of unconditional eternal security. Again, we shall see that they are lifting the promise out of its contextual setting in which we find its conditions stated. Here are the verses they use to support unconditional eternal security:

**“FOR I AM PERSUADED THAT NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE,
NOR ANGELS NOR PRINCIPALITIES NOR POWERS NOR
THINGS PRESENT NOR THINGS TO COME, NOR HEIGHT
NOR DEPTH, NOR ANY OTHER CREATED THING, SHALL BE
ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD WHICH IS
IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.”**

Romans 8:38-39

Lifted out and married together with the partial truth of “neither shall anyone snatch them out of my hand” (Jn. 10:28), the doctrine of unconditional eternal security is “confirmed” in the mouth of two witnesses, but is it indeed? Let us now add the context in which Paul makes these statements from Rom. 8:38-39. Here are the verses preceding them:

**“WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE
LOVE OF CHRIST?
SHALL TRIBULATION, OR DISTRESS, OR PERSECUTION,
OR FAMINE, OR NAKEDNESS, OR PERIL, OR SWORD?
AS IT IS WRITTEN:
“FOR YOUR SAKE
WE ARE KILLED ALL THE DAY LONG;
WE ARE ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER”
YET IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE
MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM WHO
LOVED US.
FOR I AM PERSUADED...”**

Romans 8:35-37a

The security of the promises of verses 38-39 are given to a people who are killed for the sake of Christ, are they not? Are not these verses describing a people who are in tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril of the sword-like sheep to the slaughter? Are not these those who have heard His voice and are following Christ?

The emphasis above is a manifestation of the love of the saints for God, rather than the love of God for the saints as so often presented. These are saints who are proving their love for God by what they suffer for His name’s sake. They love God because He first loved them” (1 Jn. 4:19). Is this not the context of these passages? How then is it a “proof text” for unconditional eternal security?

**the
CONDITIONS**

**“WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM
THE LOVE OF CHRIST?
SHALL TRIBULATION, OR DISTRESS, OR
PERSECUTION, OR FAMINE, OR
NAKEDNESS, OR PERIL, OR SWORD?
AS IT IS WRITTEN:
“FOR YOUR SAKE
WE ARE KILLED ALL THE DAY LONG;
WE ARE ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR
THE SLAUGHTER”
YET IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE
MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH
HIM WHO LOVED US.
FOR I AM PERSUADED...”**

Romans 8:35-37a

**the
PROMISES**

**“FOR I AM PERSUADED
THAT NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE,
NOR ANGELS NOR PRINCIPALITIES
NOR POWERS
NOR THINGS PRESENT NOR THINGS TO
COME, NOR HEIGHT NOR DEPTH, NOR ANY
OTHER CREATED THING, SHALL BE ABLE TO
SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD
WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.”**

Romans 8:38-39

We have no right to give such promises to people that are not willing to live for Christ! It is a false security derived from a perversion of truth! Let me bring back to your remembrance something I quoted earlier in this booklet about the danger of isolating Scripture from its contextual surroundings:



Harold Horton-
1934 -
Gifts of the Spirit

“Much confusion has been wrought in Bible exposition and much damage done to Christianity, by the careless habit of concentrating on an isolated verse of Scripture with no proper reference to its relationships. The context is often a sufficient commentary on a difficult verse. No solitary, minute portion can be expected to yield its meaning without a full consideration of its illuminating surroundings.”

The underlying result of giving a security blanket to the entire church (wise and foolish virgins) is to present a cross-less and costless brand of cheap grace.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, martyred by Nazi Germany, spoke of such violation to God's grace in his book, "the Cost of Discipleship". consider these excerpts:

“CHEAP GRACE IS THE DEADLY ENEMY OF OUR CHURCH. WE ARE FIGHTING TODAY FOR COSTLY GRACE. CHEAP GRACE MEANS GRACE SOLD ON THE MARKET LIKE CHEAPJACKS’ WARES. THE SACRAMENTS, THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN, AND THE CONSOLATIONS OF RELIGION ARE THROWN AWAY AT CUT PRICES. GRACE IS REPRESENTED AS THE CHURCH’S INEXHAUSTIBLE TREASURY, FROM WHICH SHE SHOWERS BLESSINGS WITH GENEROUS HANDS, WITHOUT ASKING QUESTIONS OR FIXING LIMITS. GRACE WITHOUT PRICE; GRACE WITHOUT COST!

THE ESSENCE OF GRACE, WE SUPPOSE, IS THAT THE ACCOUNT HAS BEEN PAID IN ADVANCE; AND, BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN PAID, EVERYTHING CAN BE HAD FOR NOTHING. SINCE THE COST WAS INFINITE, THE POSSIBILITIES OF USING AND SPENDING IT ARE INFINITE. WHAT WOULD GRACE BE IF IT WERE NOT CHEAP? CHEAP GRACE MEANS GRACE AS A DOCTRINE, A PRINCIPLE, A SYSTEM. IT MEANS FORGIVENESS OF SINS PROCLAIMED AS A GENERAL TRUTH, THE LOVE OF GOD TAUGHT AS THE CHRISTIAN “CONCEPTION” OF GOD. AN INTELLECTUAL ASSENT TO THAT IDEA IS HELD TO BE OF ITSELF SUFFICIENT TO SECURE REMISSION OF SINS. THE CHURCH WHICH HOLDS THE CORRECT DOCTRINE OF GRACE HAS, IT IS SUPPOSED, *IPSO FACTO* A PART IN THAT GRACE. IN SUCH A CHURCH THE WORLD FINDS A CHEAP COVERING FOR ITS SINS; NO CONTRITION IS REQUIRED, STILL LESS ANY REAL DESIRE TO BE DELIVERED FROM SIN. CHEAP GRACE THEREFORE AMOUNTS TO DENIAL OF THE LIVING WORD OF GOD, IN FACT, A DENIAL OF THE INCARNATION OF THE WORD OF GOD.

CHEAP GRACE MEANS THE JUSTIFICATION OF SIN WITHOUT THE JUSTIFICATION OF THE SINNER. GRACE ALONE DOES EVERYTHING, THEY SAY, AND SO EVERYTHING CAN REMAIN AS IT WAS BEFORE. ...WELL, THEN, LET THE CHRISTIAN LIVE LIKE THE REST OF THE WORLD, LET HIM MODEL HIMSELF ON THE WORLD’S STANDARDS IN EVERY SPHERE OF LIFE, AND NOT PRESUMPTUOUSLY ASPIRE TO LIVE A DIFFERENT LIFE UNDER THE GRACE FROM HIS OLD LIFE UNDER SIN. →

LET [THE CHRISTIAN] BE COMFORTED AND REST ASSURED IN HIS POSSESSION OF THIS GRACE—FOR GRACE ALONE DOES EVERYTHING. INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING CHRIST, LET THE CHRISTIAN ENJOY THE CONSOLATIONS OF HIS GRACE!

THAT IS WHAT WE MEAN BY CHEAP GRACE, THE GRACE WHICH AMOUNTS TO THE JUSTIFICATION OF SIN WITHOUT THE JUSTIFICATION OF THE REPENTANT SINNER WHO DEPARTS FROM SIN AND FROM WHOM SIN DEPARTS. CHEAP GRACE IS NOT THE KIND OF FORGIVENESS OF SIN WHICH FREES US FROM THE TOILS OF SIN. CHEAP GRACE IS THE GRACE WE BESTOW ON OURSELVES. CHEAP GRACE IS THE PREACHING OF FORGIVENESS WITHOUT REQUIRING REPENTANCE, BAPTISM WITHOUT CHURCH DISCIPLINE, COMMUNION WITHOUT CONFESSION, ABSOLUTION WITHOUT PERSONAL CONFESSION. CHEAP GRACE IS GRACE WITHOUT DISCIPLESHIP, GRACE WITHOUT THE CROSS, GRACE WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST, LIVING AND INCARNATE.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMES TO MEAN NOTHING MORE THAN LIVING IN THE WORLD AND AS THE WORLD, IN BEING NO DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD, IN FACT, BEING PROHIBITED FROM BEING DIFFERENT FROM THE WORLD FOR THE SAKE OF GRACE. THE UPSHOT OF IT ALL IS THAT MY ONLY DUTY AS A CHRISTIAN IS TO LEAVE THE WORLD FOR AN HOUR OR SO ON A SUNDAY MORNING AND GO TO THE CHURCH TO BE ASSURED THAT MY SINS ARE ALL FORGIVEN. I NEED NO LONGER TRY TO FOLLOW CHRIST, FOR CHEAP GRACE, THE BITTEREST FOE OF DISCIPLESHIP...HAS FREED ME FROM THAT...GRACE AT THE CHEAPEST PRICE..IT IS TERRIFYING TO REALIZE WHAT USE CAN BE MADE OF A GENUINE EVANGELICAL DOCTRINE.”

“the Cost of Discipleship- Dietrich Bonhoeffer”.



Unconditional eternal security based on such a brand of cheap grace breeds a subtle atmosphere of “r&r” as best representing the normal Christian life. There is nothing to worry about (not the world, the flesh or the devil), and there is nothing to do. Jesus has done it all. He has done all the dying, all the cross-bearing, and paid all the cost. It has been summed up with this popular two-fold cliché:

“ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED”

and

“I GOT IT ALL WHEN I GOT SAVED”

That is not only cheap grace, but unbiblical grace!

It is only when we understand that eternal security is conditional rather than unconditional that we will see “the need to stand” as being the best description for the normal Christian life. The Scriptures abound with warnings about the abuse of grace:

“BUT MAY THE GOD OF ALL GRACE, WHO HAS CALLED US TO HIS ETERNAL GLORY BY CHRIST JESUS, AFTER YOU HAVE SUFFERED A WHILE, (HE WILL) PERFECT, ESTABLISH, STRENGTHEN AND SETTLE YOU....I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU BRIEFLY, EXHORTING AND TESTIFYING THAT THIS IS THE TRUE GRACE OF GOD IN WHICH YOU STAND.”

1 Pet. 5:10,12

“...WE HAVE ACCESS BY FAITH INTO THIS GRACE IN WHICH WE STAND...”

Rom. 5:2

“...WE THEN, AS WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM, ALSO PLEAD WITH YOU NOT TO RECEIVE THE GRACE OF GOD IN VAIN.”

2 Cor. 6:1

“... SHALL WE CONTINUE IN SIN THAT GRACE MAY ABOUND?

CERTAINLY NOT!

Rom. 6:1-2



“... COUNTED THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT BY WHICH HE WAS SANCTIFIED A COMMON THING, AND INSULTED THE SPIRIT OF GRACE.”

Heb. 10::29

“... CONCERNING OUR COMMON SALVATION, I FOUND IT NECESSARY TO WRITE TO YOU EXHORTING YOU TO CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS. FOR CERTAIN MEN HAVE CREPT IN... WHO TURN THE GRACE OF OUR GOD INTO LICENTIOUSNESS...”

Jude 3-4

The above bears witness that grace was being perverted and misused then, as it is today. It was being turned into licentiousness, received in vain, insulting the Spirit of Grace and even being used as a reason to continue in sin that grace may abound. Much of what was being addressed above was being caused by the deeds and doctrines of the Nicolaitans. This was a perverted doctrine of the grace of God initiated by the same Nicholas spoken of in acts 6, who was among the first deacons of the church, men of “good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom” (Acts 6:3). This is the account of a man who began good but finished bad which is something that the proponents of unconditional eternal security refuse to admit is possible. They always say such a one was “never saved to begin with.” However, Nicholas was full of the Holy Spirit, but later on he was filled with an unholy spirit as the likes of Simon (Acts 8:21-23).

**“...YOU HAVE THERE THOSE
WHO HOLD THE DOCTRINE OF
THE**

NICOLAITANS

**...WHICH THING
I HATE.”**

Rev. 2:15

**“...WE MAKE IT OUR AIM...
TO BE WELL PLEASING TO HIM.
FOR WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE
THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST
THAT EACH ONE MAY RECEIVE THE
THINGS DONE IN THE BODY,
ACCORDING TO WHAT HE HAS DONE,
WHETHER GOOD OR BAD.
KNOWING, THEREFORE,
THE TERROR OF THE LORD,
WE PERSUADE MEN...”**

2 Cor. 5:9-11



According to Paul, it does matter what we, as God's people, do in the body. We will give an account for deeds done in the body as Christians. Considering the seriousness of the above, it would behoove us all to be found loving what God loves and hating what God hates. Jesus hates the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. He has said so twice in Scripture (Rev. 2:6 and Rev. 2:15). Both were spoken to His churches. One was given as a commendation and the other as a condemnation.

Do you know what is the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, the only thing Jesus has clearly stated that He hates? Most of God's people do not know. We can know and should know what it is all about. Wouldn't it be quite terrible to end up at the Judgment Seat of Christ only to find out that you have been guilty of loving what Jesus has hated?

We live in the very times in which multitudes of God's people are being taught to love a doctrine that Jesus hates. Let us consider what it is.

**THE DOCTRINE OF THE NICOLAITANS
IN ITS MODERN-DAY FORM IS THE DOCTRINE OF**

UNCONDITIONAL

ETERNAL SECURITY

NICOLITANS- “A TERM APPEARING IN REVELATION (2:6,15) DESCRIBING MEMBERS OF CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS WHO HELD A DOCTRINE THAT THE LORD HATED. IRENAEUS SAID THEY WERE FOLLOWERS OF NICOLAUS OF ANTIOCH, A PROSELYTE WHO WAS AMONG THE SEVEN MEN CHOSEN TO SERVE THE JERUSALEM CONGREGATION (ACTS 6:5), WHO HAD FORSAKEN TRUE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE; HE SAID THEY LIVED IN UNRESTRAINED INDULGENCE...NICOLLAUS LEFT CORRECT DOCTRINE AND HAD THE HABIT OF INDIFFERENCE AS TO WHAT A MAN ATE AND AS HOW HE LIVED...THE NICOLAITIANS ABANDONED THEMSELVES TO PLEASURES LIKE GOATS IN A LIFE OF SHAMELESS SELF-INDULGENCE...THEY WERE A PEOPLE WHO USED CHRISTIAN LIBERTY AS AN OCCASION FOR THE FLESH...THE ENTICEMENT TO SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION WAS THE PAGAN SOCIETY IN WHICH CHRISTIANS LIVED WHERE EATING MEAT OFFERED TO IDOLS WAS COMMON. SEX RELATIONS OUTSIDE MARRIAGE WERE COMPLETELY ACCEPTABLE IN SUCH A SOCIETY. THE NICOLAITANS ATTEMPTED TO ESTABLISH A COMPROMISE WITH THE PAGAN SOCIETY OF THE ROMAN WORLD THAT SURROUNDED THEM...IT MAY BE THAT THE DOCTRINE OF THE NICOLAITANS WAS DUALISTIC. THEY REASONED THAT THE HUMAN BODY WAS EVIL AND THAT ONLY THE SPIRIT WAS GOOD. A CHRISTIAN, THEREFORE, COULD DO WHATEVER HE DESIRED WITH HIS BODY BECAUSE IT HAD NO IMPORTANCE. THE SPIRIT ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS THE RECIPIENT OF GRACE WHICH MEANT THAT GRACE AND FORGIVENESS WERE HIS NO MATTER WHAT HE DID. THEY WERE THOSE READY TO COMPROMISE WITH THE WORLD...THE RESULT OF THEIR TEACHING WOULD HAVE CONFORMED CHRISTIANITY TO THE WORLD RATHER THAN HAVE CHRISTIANITY TO CHANGE THE WORLD.”

(zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible- Vol. 4, page 435)

“A CHRISTIAN COULD DO WHATEVER HE DESIRED WITH HIS BODY BECAUSE IT HAD NO IMPORTANCE. THE SPIRIT WAS THE RECIPIENT OF GRACE WHICH MEANT THAT GRACE AND FORGIVENESS WERE HIS NO MATTER WHAT HE DID...”

THE DOCTRINE OF THE

NICOLAITANS

IS THE DOCTRINE OF

UNCONDITIONAL

**ETERNAL
SECURITY**

**“A CHRISTIAN COULD DO WHATEVER
HE DESIRED WITH HIS BODY BECAUSE
IT HAD NO IMPORTANCE. THE SPIRIT
WAS THE RECIPIENT OF GRACE WHICH
MEANT THAT
GRACE AND FORGIVENESS
WERE HIS
NO MATTER WHAT HE DID...”**



“...WHICH THING I HATE.” Rev. 2:15

What Jesus hated back then,
He still hates today. This is because He is
“the same yesterday, today and forever.
Do not be carried about with various and
strange doctrines” (Heb. 13:8-9) Unconditional
eternal security is such a strange doctrine.

The conclusion that these two doctrines establish are identical even though they are not presented in the same manner. The Nicolaitans were blatantly and openly stating that licentious actions were permissible since only the spirit of man was the recipient of grace. Jesus did not die for us in order that we may “...continue in sin that grace may abound” (Rom.6:1).

Its modern-day counterpart does not make such a distinction between the spirit and the body. Regardless, their conclusion remains that the recipient of grace can never lose God's grace and forgiveness, no matter what he does. This is the bottom line of the doctrine of unconditional eternal security, is it not? The only difference is that the Nicolaitans were openly advocating immoral behavior as being ok. Its modern-day counterpart allows the individual to subtly draw the same conclusion.

I need to stress that there are many good moral people who are strong advocates of unconditional eternal security, and do not practice themselves, nor endorse for others, what the Nicolaitans were teaching. However, we must understand that not everyone who names the name of Christ is so inclined. In many years of ministry, I have personally witnessed numerous saints who desired the best of both worlds. People bent on keeping a foot in the kingdom of this world as well as a foot in the kingdom of God. To such a mentality, the unconditional eternal security doctrine is quite soothing to the conscience. All that they hear is “grace and forgiveness are mine no matter what I do.” Such perversion of truth should never be spoken to the ears of those who have no heart for the things of God. God has already spoken many things in His word to warn carnally-minded Christians. To five of His seven churches in Revelation He calls them to repent or else. We dare not diminish what God has spoken to them by lulling them into even a deeper sleep than they are already in. We need to proclaim to them:

“AWAKE, YOU WHO SLEEP, ARISE FROM THE DEAD, AND CHRIST WILL GIVE YOU LIGHT. SEE THEN THAT YOU WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY, NOT AS

FOOLS

BUT AS

WISE...”

Eph. 5:14-17

**“A CHRISTIAN
COULD DO
WHATEVER ..
THE RECIPIENT
OF GRACE...
MEANT
THAT
GRACE AND
FORGIVENESS
WERE HIS
NO MATTER
WHAT
HE DID...”**



**“...THE
SOLID FOUNDATION
OF GOD
STANDS HAVING
THIS SEAL:
“THE LORD KNOWS
THOSE WHO ARE HIS,”
AND
“LET EVERYONE
WHO NAMES
THE NAME OF CHRIST
DEPART FROM
INIQUITY.”**

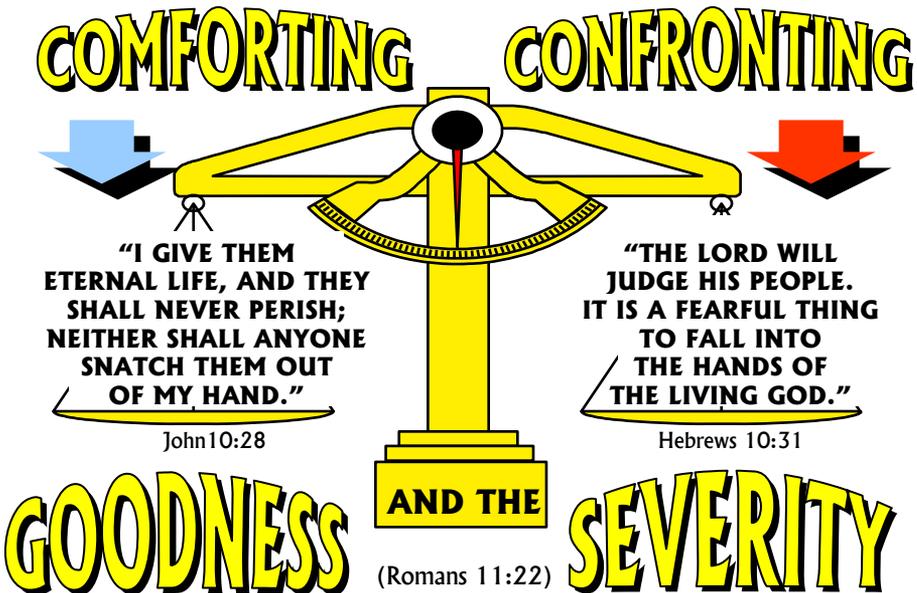
2 Timothy 2:19

For a Christian to be upon the solid foundation of God, he or she must be on a pathway of departing from iniquity. There is no place in new testament theology which conveys “grace and forgiveness are ours no matter what we do.” In fact, we find just the opposite expressed:

“FOR IF WE SIN WILLFULLY AFTER WE HAVE RECEIVED THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH, THERE NO LONGER REMAINS A SACRIFICE FOR SINS, BUT A CERTAIN FEARFUL EXPECTATION OF JUDGMENT...ANYONE WHO HAS REJECTED MOSES LAW DIES WITHOUT MERCY ON THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES. OF HOW MUCH WORSE PUNISHMENT, DO YOU SUPPOSE, WILL HE BE THOUGHT WORTHY WHO HAS TRAMPLED THE SON OF GOD UNDERFOOT, COUNTED THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT BY WHICH HE WAS SANCTIFIED A COMMON THING, AND INSULTED THE SPIRIT OF GRACE? FOR WE KNOW HIM WHO SAID.. THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE”. IT IS A FEARFUL THING TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE LIVING GOD.”

Hebrews 10:26-31

Paul reminds us to consider the goodness and the severity of God (Rom. 11:22) Below you will see depicted this dual concept of God demonstrated when we consider what the Scriptures have to say about being in the hands of God.



BEHOLD THE

**"I GIVE THEM
ETERNAL LIFE, AND THEY
SHALL NEVER PERISH;
NEITHER SHALL ANYONE
SNATCH THEM OUT
OF MY HAND."**

John 10:28

**"THE LORD WILL
JUDGE HIS PEOPLE.
IT IS A FEARFUL THING
TO FALL INTO
THE HANDS OF
THE LIVING GOD."**

Hebrews 10:31

GOODNESS

AND THE

SEVERITY

**"FOR ALL
HAVE SINNED ...
BEING JUSTIFIED FREELY BY HIS
GRACE...BY HIS BLOOD...GOD
HAS PASSED OVER THE SINS
THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY
COMMITTED..."**

Rom. 3:23-25

**"IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS,
HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST
TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS
AND TO CLEANSE US FROM
ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS...I
WRITE TO YOU, THAT YOU
MAY NOT SIN. AND IF
ANYONE SINS, WE HAVE AN
ADVOCATE WITH THE
FATHER, JESUS CHRIST...AND
HE HIMSELF IS THE
PROPITIATION ("MERCY
SEAT") FOR OUR SINS..."**

1 John 1:9-10, 2:1-2

**"FOR IF WE
SIN WILLFULLY
AFTER WE HAVE RECEIVED
THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE
TRUTH, THERE NO
LONGER REMAINS A
SACRIFICE FOR SINS, BUT
A FEARFUL EXPECTATION
OF JUDGMENT, AND
FIERY INDIGNATION
(UPON THOSE WHO)
TRAMPLE THE SON OF
GOD UNDERFOOT, (AND)
COUNT THE BLOOD OF
THE COVENANT BY
WHICH HE WAS
SANCTIFIED A COMMON
THING, (AND) INSULT
THE SPIRIT OF GRACE."**

Hebrews 10:26-29 excerpts

Both of the above columns were written to believers in Christ. Whether we, as God's people, receive the goodness or the severity of God depends upon our relationship towards sin. We can always find forgiveness through a heart of remorse and repentance (like David-Psalm 51). However, we cannot presume on the grace of God by willfully practicing sin with a theological covering such as the Nicolaitans were doing. We cannot mock God (Gal. 6:7-8).

“FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH SET THEIR MINDS ON THE THINGS OF THE FLESH, BUT THOSE WHO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT (SET THEIR MINDS ON) THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT. FOR TO BE CARNALLY MINDED IS DEATH, BUT TO BE SPIRITUALLY MINDED IS LIFE... THE CARNAL MIND IS ENMITY AGAINST GOD, FOR IT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE LAW OF GOD...SO THEN, THOSE WHO ARE IN THE FLESH CANNOT PLEASE GOD... FOR IF YOU LIVE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH YOU WILL DIE; BUT IF BY THE SPIRIT YOU PUT TO DEATH THE DEEDS OF THE BODY, YOU WILL LIVE.”

Romans 8:5-13 excerpts

**SPIRITUALLY
MINDED**

**CARNALLY
MINDED**

**“I GIVE THEM
ETERNAL LIFE, AND THEY
SHALL NEVER PERISH;
NEITHER SHALL ANYONE
SNATCH THEM OUT
OF MY HAND.”**

John 10:28

**“THE LORD WILL
JUDGE HIS PEOPLE. IT
IS A FEARFUL THING
TO FALL INTO
THE HANDS OF
THE LIVING GOD.”**

Hebrews 10:31

GOODNESS

“IF we CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS...I WRITE TO YOU, THAT YOU MAY NOT SIN. AND IF ANYONE SINS, WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST...AND HE HIMSELF IS THE PROPITIATION (“MERCY SEAT”) FOR OUR SINS...”

1 John 1:9-10, 2:1-2

SEVERITY

“IF WE SIN WILLFULLY AFTER WE HAVE RECEIVED THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH, THERE NO LONGER REMAINS A SACRIFICE FOR SINS, BUT A FEARFUL EXPECTATION OF JUDGMENT, AND FIERY INDIGNATION (UPON THOSE WHO) TRAMPLE THE SON OF GOD UNDERFOOT, (AND) COUNT THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT BY WHICH HE WAS SANCTIFIED A COMMON THING, (AND) INSULT THE SPIRIT OF GRACE.”

Hebrews 10:26-29

I pray that you will consider carefully what is portrayed on the previous page. It is a mini-synopsis of the entire new testament train of thought. The epistles were written to the people of God and not to the unsaved. Here is a vital principle to understand:

**GOD'S WORD ACKNOWLEDGES THAT GOD'S PEOPLE
DIVIDE INTO TWO CATEGORIES
(BY THEIR OWN CHOOSING).
GOD NEVER SPEAKS THE SAME WORDS
TO BOTH CATEGORIES.**

The word of God often contrasts these two groups as we see in the passages from Romans 8:5-13 (carnal-minded vs. spiritual-minded). The advocates of unconditional eternal security attempt to prove that these carnally-minded, of whom Paul speaks, are the unsaved. However, his concluding thoughts belies this error:

**“IF YOU LIVE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH
YOU WILL DIE; BUT IF BY THE SPIRIT YOU PUT TO
DEATH THE DEEDS OF THE BODY, YOU WILL LIVE.”**

Romans 8:13



**NOTICE GOD
REQUIRES
YOU,
AS A BELIEVER,
TO PUT
TO DEATH
THE DEEDS OF
THE BODY
BY THE SPIRIT .**



This is not a contrast between believer and unbeliever. This is a message written to those who possess the Holy Spirit. The goodness of God will remain upon those believers whose attitude is toward confessing their sin when they do sin. The severity of God is reserved for those believers whose attitude is to continue to sin willfully presuming upon the grace of God.

The doctrine of the Nicolaitans taught “grace and forgiveness was theirs regardless of what they did in the body.” Paul brands this kind of thinking as carnality that displeases God and brings the individual into enmity (become an enemy) with God Himself.

“IF YOU LIVE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH YOU WILL DIE; BUT IF BY THE SPIRIT YOU PUT TO DEATH THE DEEDS OF THE BODY, YOU WILL LIVE.”

Romans 8:13

**SPIRITUALLY
MINDED**

Not only does the epistle to the Romans depict the contrast between spiritual mindedness and carnal mindedness,

but the epistle to the Galatians does so as well:

**CARNALLY
MINDED**

“DO NOT BE DECEIVED, GOD IS NOT MOCKED; FOR WHATEVER A MAN SOWS, THAT SHALL HE ALSO REAP. FOR HE WHO SOWS TO HIS FLESH WILL OF THE FLESH REAP CORRUPTION, BUT HE WHO SOWS TO THE SPIRIT WILL OF THE SPIRIT REAP EVERLASTING LIFE.”

Gal 6:7-8

This is not a message to the unsaved either. It is a message to the people of God warning them of the sowing and reaping principle that governs the kingdom of God. Paul's conclusion in Galatians 6:7-8 is the result of first telling these believers:

**“I SAY THEN:
WALK IN THE SPIRIT, AND YOU
SHALL NOT FULFILL THE LUSTS OF THE FLESH...”**

Gal. 5:16

Paul goes on to contrast the works of the flesh against the fruit of the Spirit. What follows is yet another stern warning to believers who choose to fulfill the lusts of the flesh:

“...OF WHICH I TELL YOU BEFOREHAND, JUST AS I ALSO TOLD YOU IN TIME PAST, THAT THOSE WHO PRACTICE SUCH THINGS WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD... THOSE WHO ARE CHRIST'S HAVE CRUCIFIED THE FLESH WITH ITS PASSIONS AND DESIRES.”

Gal. 5:21-24

**SPIRITUALLY
MINDED**

The idea that Paul is addressing the “unsaved” who “think they are saved” will not hold up to the full scope of the Scriptures.

**CARNALLY
MINDED**

We are told that the Holy Spirit teaches by “comparing spiritual to spiritual” (1 Cor.2:13). Listen to what Paul told the church at Ephesus:



**“BUT FORNICATION AND ALL
UNCLEANNES OR COVETOUSNESS,
LET IT NOT EVEN BE NAMED AMONG
YOU, AS IS FITTING FOR SAINTS...
FOR THIS YOU KNOW, THAT NO
FORNICATOR, UNCLEAN PERSON,
NOR COVETOUS MAN,
WHO IS AN IDOLATER,
HAS ANY INHERITANCE I N THE
KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND OF GOD.
LET NO ONE DECEIVE YOU
WITH EMPTY WORDS,
FOR BECAUSE OF THESE THINGS
THE WRATH OF GOD COMES UPON
THE SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE.
THEREFORE
DO NOT BE PARTAKERS
WITH THEM.”**

Eph. 5:3-7

Paul is warning the saints, “Do not become partakers with the sons of disobedience” which implies that it is possible for believers to end up inheriting the wrath of God due to unacceptable lifestyles. Notice the plea of Paul to believers, “Let no one deceive you with empty words.” The whole concept of unconditional eternal security is filled with empty words that stand in direct conflict with what is written in the word of God!

God never gives words of comfort to any Christian whose lifestyle is like the sons of disobedience, but He rather confronts, reproves and severely warns them of the consequences that will follow a life of disobedience.



Both in the
Old Covenant and in
the New Covenant,
God is presented as



“THE UNCHANGING GOD”:

**“FOR I AM THE LORD,
I DO NOT CHANGE.”**

Mal. 3:6

**“JESUS CHRIST IS
THE SAME YESTERDAY,
TODAY, AND FOREVER.”**

Heb. 13:8

Therefore, we should not be surprised that the Old Covenant presents an identical concept with that of the New Covenant concerning sin in the life of God’s people:

“YOU SHALL HAVE ONE LAW FOR HIM WHO SINS UNINTENTIONALLY... BUT THE PERSON WHO DOES ANYTHING PRESUMPTUOUSLY... THAT ONE BRINGS REPROACH ON THE LORD... BECAUSE HE HAS DESPISED THE WORD OF THE LORD, AND HAS BROKEN HIS COMMANDMENT, THAT PERSON SHALL BE COMPLETELY CUT OFF, HIS GUILT SHALL BE UPON HIM.”

Num. 15:30-31

One of the great errors of the unconditional eternal security position is stated as:

“IF A BELIEVER CONTINUES IN SIN, GOD WILL TAKE HIM HOME BEFORE HE GOES TOO FAR. THIS IS WHAT IS MEANT BY JOHN’S STATEMENT DESCRIBING A BELIEVER WHO “SINS A SIN LEADING UNTO DEATH” (1 Jn. 5:15-16). NOWHERE DOES THE SCRIPTURE INDICATE THAT HIS ETHERNAL SECURITY IS AT RISK. IT JUST MEANS HE WILL DIE A PREMATURE DEATH.”

If the above statement is true, then God is a changing God (which He is not). Numbers 15:29-31 clearly states that the one who sins presumptuously will be completely cut off and his guilt remains upon him. In other words, he dies in his sins.

“I AM THE LORD, I DO NOT CHANGE.”



**“YOU SHALL HAVE ONE LAW
FOR HIM WHO
SINS UNINTENTIONALLY...
BUT THE PERSON WHO DOES
ANYTHING PRESUMPTUOUSLY...
THAT ONE BRINGS REPROACH
ON THE LORD... BECAUSE HE HAS
DESPISED THE WORD OF THE LORD,
AND HAS BROKEN HIS
COMMANDMENT,
THAT PERSON SHALL BE COMPLETELY CUT OFF,
HIS GUILT SHALL BE UPON HIM.”**

Num. 15:30-31



Does the New Testament present the idea that “sin leading unto death” only encompasses physical death for a believer, or does it also present spiritual death in certain situations? The unconditional eternal security advocates say, “never”! Let us see how that measures up to the Scriptures.

Revelation Chapter 21 describes eternity. It is during the time in which there is a “...new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth have passed away” (Rev.21:1). We also find the beautiful description of New Jerusalem” (Rev.21:2-27). The last verse of this description says:

**“BUT THERE SHALL BY NO MEANS ENTER IN IT
ANYTHING THAT DEFILES, OR CAUSES AN
ABOMINATION OR A LIE, BUT ONLY THOSE WHO
ARE WRITTEN IN THE LAMB’S BOOK OF LIFE.”**

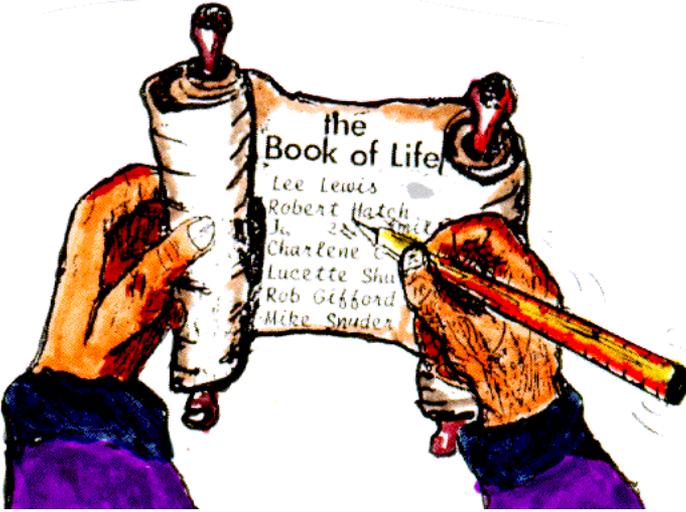
Rev. 21:27

Earlier in Chapter 20:15 we read, “And anyone not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” Jesus also reminded His disciples to “rejoice that your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:20). Paul the apostle singles out “...Clement...and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life” (Phil.4:3).

We understand that the Lamb’s book of life contain the names of all who have become born again and have become “justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ” (Romans 3:24).

The great question that each of us must allow the Scriptures to answer for us is:

**IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE NAIL-SCARRED HANDS THAT
WRITE THE NAMES IN THE BOOK OF LIFE
ALSO BLOTS THEM OUT?**



Remember Paul warns, "Let no one deceive you with empty words" (Eph.5:6). The unconditional eternal security advocates will tell you it is impossible for names to be blotted out once they are written in. This is the bottom line of their doctrinal position, that it can only cost you physical death. On page 24 they stated, "Nowhere does the Scripture indicate that eternal security is at risk." Here is what Jesus has to say about that:



**"...IF ANYONE TAKES AWAY
FROM THE WORDS OF THE BOOK
OF THIS PROPHECY, GOD SHALL
TAKE AWAY HIS PART FROM
THE BOOK OF LIFE,
FROM THE HOLY CITY,
AND FROM THE THINGS WHICH
ARE WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK."**

Rev. 22:19

We have already seen that our name must be in the book of life to "enter the city" (Rev. 21:27). Jesus is telling us that here is one way in which a person can have his name blotted out of the book of life, as well as losing his access into the holy (eternal) city!

**"BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES
EVERY WORD SHALL BE ESTABLISHED."**

2 Cor. 13:1

**FIRST
WITNESS:**



**"...IF ANYONE TAKES AWAY
FROM THE WORDS OF THE BOOK
OF THIS PROPHECY, GOD SHALL
TAKE AWAY HIS PART FROM THE
BOOK OF LIFE,
FROM THE HOLY CITY,
AND FROM THE THINGS WHICH
ARE WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK."**

Rev. 22:19

**SECOND
WITNESS:**



**"TO THE...CHURCH IN SARDIS
WRITE... REPENT... IF YOU WILL
NOT WATCH, I WILL COME UPON
YOU AS A THIEF, AND YOU WILL
NOT KNOW WHAT HOUR I WILL
COME UPON YOU. YOU HAVE A
FEW NAMES EVEN IN SARDIS WHO
HAVE NOT DEFILED THEIR
GARMENTS; AND THEY SHALL
WALK WITH ME IN WHITE;
FOR THEY ARE WORTHY."**

**HE WHO OVERCOMES SHALL BE CLOTHED IN WHITE
GARMENTS, AND I WILL NOT BLOT OUT HIS NAME FROM
THE BOOK OF LIFE...HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR
WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES."**

Rev. 3:1-6 excerpts

I recently listened to a tape from a teacher of unconditional eternal security using the isolated words of Jesus in which he said, and I will not blot out their names from the book of life as a "proof text" that God does not blot out names. The context proves just the opposite. It is only the few in Sardis who have not defiled their garments that receive the promise of not having their names blotted out. If it were "impossible" then Jesus would not have even uttered these words as a promise to the faithful and as a warning to the unfaithful!

It is presumptuous sin that can defile our garments of salvation and result in being blotted out of the book of life after having been once written in.

**“BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES
EVERY WORD SHALL BE ESTABLISHED.”**

2 Cor. 13:1

So far we have established two witnesses from the mouth of Jesus Himself that He indeed does blot out names from the book of life. Let us add a third place the Scripture speaks of names being blotted out:

**FIRST
WITNESS:**



**“...IF ANYONE TAKES AWAY
FROM THE WORDS OF THE BOOK
OF THIS PROPHECY, GOD SHALL
TAKE AWAY HIS PART FROM THE
BOOK OF LIFE, FROM THE HOLY
CITY, AND FROM THE THINGS
WHICH ARE WRITTEN
IN THIS BOOK.”**

Rev. 22:19

**SECOND
WITNESS:**

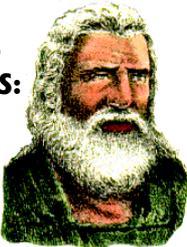


**“TO THE...CHURCH IN SARDIS
WRITE... REPENT... IF YOU WILL
NOT WATCH, I WILL COME UPON
YOU AS A THIEF, AND YOU WILL
NOT KNOW WHAT HOUR I WILL
COME UPON YOU. YOU HAVE A
FEW NAMES EVEN IN SARDIS WHO
HAVE NOT DEFILED THEIR
GARMENTS; AND THEY SHALL
WALK WITH ME IN WHITE;
FOR THEY ARE WORTHY.**

**HE WHO OVERCOMES SHALL BE CLOTHED IN WHITE
GARMENTS, AND I WILL NOT BLOT OUT HIS NAME FROM
THE BOOK OF LIFE...HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR
WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES.”**

Rev. 3:1-6 excerpts

**THIRD
WITNESS:**



**“ YET NOW, IF YOU WILL FORGIVE THEIR
SIN-BUT IF NOT, I PRAY, BLOT ME OUT OF
YOUR BOOK WHICH YOU HAVE WRITTEN.
AND THE LORD SAID TO MOSES,
“WHOEVER HAS SINNED AGAINST ME,
I WILL BLOT HIM OUT OF MY BOOK.”**

Exodus 32:31-33

Notice God does not tell Moses, “I do not blot out names once they are written in.” Although we only need two witnesses, I give you this third one because it clearly states why God would blot out a name. It is because of sinning against God.

“YOU SHALL HAVE ONE LAW FOR HIM WHO SINS UNINTENTIONALLY... BUT THE PERSON WHO DOES ANYTHING PRESUMPTUOUSLY... THAT ONE BRINGS REPROACH ON THE LORD... BECAUSE HE HAS DESPISED THE WORD OF THE LORD, AND HAS BROKEN HIS COMMANDMENT, THAT PERSON SHALL BE COMPLETELY CUT OFF, HIS GUILT SHALL BE UPON HIM.”

Num. 15:30-31

God has not changed His mind simply because He has instituted a New Covenant. He is an unchanging God when it comes to how he views sin. Paul understood this well and that is why he made this contrast:



“DO NOT BOAST AGAINST THE BRANCHES (THE JEWS)...REMEMBER THAT YOU (GENTILES) DO NOT SUPPORT THE ROOT, BUT THE ROOT SUPPORTS YOU. YOU WILL SAY THEN, “BRANCHES WERE BROKEN OFF THAT I MIGHT BE GRAFTED IN”. WELL SAID. BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF THEY WERE BROKEN OFF, AND YOU STAND BY FAITH. DO NOT BE HAUGHTY BUT FEAR. FOR IF GOD DID NOT SPARE THE NATURAL BRANCHES, HE MAY NOT SPARE YOU EITHER. THEREFORE CONSIDER THE GOODNESS AND THE SEVERITY OF GOD: ON THOSE WHO FELL, SEVERITY; BUT TOWARD YOU, GOODNESS, IF YOU CONTINUE IN HIS GOODNESS. OTHERWISE YOU ALSO WILL BE CUT OFF.”

Romans 11:18-22

We certainly understand Paul's reference to Israel being "cut off" as relating to eternal salvation, don't we? It is not speaking merely of physical death, is it? Paul clearly states in Romans 10:1 "My heart's desire for Israel is that they may be saved." So then, if the issue for the natural branches being cut off is salvation, why then would Paul's use of the same words to the church be limited to physical death? With such rationalization, violence is done to the word of God! Paul is clear:

“...CONTINUE IN HIS GOODNESS. OTHERWISE YOU ALSO WILL BE CUT OFF.”

We do not lack for Scripture text to support the idea that God requires his people to “continue in His goodness”:

**“....GOD, WHO “WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS”:
ETERNAL LIFE TO THOSE WHO BY PATIENT CONTINUANCE IN DOING
GOOD SEEK FOR GLORY, HONOR, AND IMMORTALITY;
BUT TO THOSE WHO ARE
SELF-SEEKING AND DO NOT OBEY THE TRUTH,
BUT OBEY UNRIGHTEOUSNESS-(THEY RECEIVE)
INDIGNATION AND WRATH, TRIBULATION AND ANGUISH,
ON EVERY SOUL OF MAN WHO DOES EVIL,
OF THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO OF THE GREEK (GENTILE)...
FOR THERE IS NO PARTIALITY WITH GOD.”**

Rom. 2:7-11

Notice that eternal life belongs to those who follow “patient continuance in doing good.” Notice they are seeking immortality. I will say it once more:

ETERNAL SECURITY

BELONGS TO THOSE WHO ARE

ETERNALLY MINDED

**“ETERNAL LIFE TO THOSE WHO BY PATIENT CONTINUANCE
IN DOING GOOD SEEK FOR GLORY, HONOR AND IMMORTALITY...”**

Rom.2:7

Read again what Paul says is the destiny of those who are “self-seeking and do not obey the truth but obey unrighteousness.” They are going to inherit “indignation” (“if we sin willfully-certain fearful expectation of judgment and indignation-Heb.10:26-27). They will receive “wrath” (let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. therefore do not be partakers with them”-Eph. 5:6-7).

It is pure folly to relegate all of the above to the “unsaved.” Multitudes of God’s people are walking as foolish virgins in Christendom today due to the popular, but unbiblical doctrine of unconditional eternal security.

“...GOD, WHO “WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS”: ETERNAL LIFE TO THOSE WHO BY PATIENT CONTINUANCE IN DOING GOOD, SEEK FOR GLORY, HONOR, AND IMMORTALITY...”

Rom. 2:7

God calls His people to a life of patient continuance:

“...TO PRESENT YOU HOLY, AND BLAMELESS, AND IRREPROACHABLE IN HIS SIGHT-

IF INDEED YOU CONTINUE IN THE FAITH, GROUNDED AND STEADFAST, AND ARE NOT MOVED AWAY FROM THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL...”

Col. 1:22-23

“...CHRIST AS A SON OVER HIS OWN HOUSE, WHOSE HOUSE WE ARE

IF WE HOLD FAST THE CONFIDENCE AND THE REJOICING OF THE HOPE FIRM TO THE END.... FOR WE HAVE BECOME PARTAKERS OF CHRIST

IF WE HOLD THE BEGINNING OF OUR CONFIDENCE STEADFAST UNTO THE END.”

Heb. 3:6,14

How can we get away with ignoring the “if’s” in those passages above? We cannot! It is quite noteworthy that inbetween the passages from Hebrews 3:6 and 9, we find this strong admonition written to the brethren:

“BEWARE BRETHREN, LEST THERE BE IN ANY OF YOU (“BRETHREN”) AN EVIL HEART OF UNBELIEF IN DEPARTING FROM THE LIVING GOD...LEST ANY OF YOU (“BRETHREN”) BE HARDENED THROUGH THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN.”

Heb. 3:12-13

All through this book I have stressed to you the importance of context. Here is another great illustration. Inbetween the two verses calling for brethren to “hold fast firm to the end”, is this warning about “departing from the living God through unbelief and the deceitfulness of sin.” How long shall we listen to men’s rationalization in telling us “they really were not saved to begin with”? The unsaved are not called “brethren”!

We do not lack for scriptural evidence of believers who have become apostates or are on the pathway leading to eternal perdition. The book of Jude describes men who “turn the grace of our God into licentiousness...” (vs4). In verse 12 he further describes them as being:

“...SPOTS IN YOUR LOVE FEASTS, WHILE THEY FEAST WITH YOU WITHOUT FEAR, SERVING ONLY THEMSELVES; THEY ARE CLOUDS WITHOUT WATER...TREES WITHOUT FRUIT, TWICE DEAD...”

Jude 12

It would be easy just to relegate these as being false believers except for Jude’s description of them as being “twice dead.” How can a man be feasting among the saints (meaning he was alive physically), and yet be considered as “twice dead”? The answer is that he is an apostate! We know from Ephesians 2:5 that Paul states, “even when we were dead in trespasses, (God) made us alive together with Christ...” We were once dead in trespasses but Jude describes these as twice dead. That implies a second death spiritually. We also need to consider Paul’s endorsement of the potential of believers to draw back to perdition (eternal misery):

“FOR IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO WERE ONCE ENLIGHTENED, AND HAVE TASTED THE HEAVENLY GIFT, AND HAVE BECOME PARTAKERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND HAVE TASTED THE GOOD WORD OF GOD AND THE POWERS OF THE AGE TO COME, IF THEY FALL (GREEK WORD APOSTASY) AWAY, (“IT IS IMPOSSIBLE”) TO RENEW THEM TO REPENTANCE...”

Hebrews 6:4-6

Notice that these people have become partakers of the Holy Spirit. We are not dealing with people who came close to being saved, but rather with a people who were saved and then fell away in apostasy. Note also that it is impossible to renew them to repentance. The use of the word renew implies that they had repented previously. They were not “seekers” but partakers of the Holy Spirit. That more than implies the new birth had taken place as well.

Just a few chapters later Paul gives this admonition to the saints:

**“FOR YOU HAVE NEED OF ENDURANCE,
SO THAT AFTER YOU HAVE DONE THE WILL OF GOD,
YOU MAY RECEIVE THE PROMISE:
“FOR YET A LITTLE WHILE, AND HE WHO IS COMING
WILL COME AND WILL NOT TARRY.
NOW THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH;
BUT IF ANYONE DRAWS BACK, MY SOUL HAS
NO PLEASURE IN HIM.” BUT WE ARE NOT OF THOSE
WHO DRAW BACK TO PERDITION, BUT OF THOSE WHO
BELIEVE TO THE SAVING OF THE SOUL.”**

Heb. 10:36-39

The message is to the just who live by faith and who are looking for He who is coming. That is a good synopsis of believers, is it not? To receive the promise of His coming, they must (1) endure, (2) do the will of God, (3) live by faith, and (4) don't draw back to perdition. However, Paul speaks of some who will draw back from living by faith. He even tells us how far they draw back which is unto perdition (Greek.-“eternal misery”). Notice God has no pleasure in those who draw back to perdition.

How serious this erroneous concept is that “God will take home any saint before he goes too far.” If that were true, Paul would never have said what he did above. He would have been in error to do so. How serious it is also to convey to God's people that the worst that can happen is premature physical death. Perhaps it would help to remember Korah. Jude uses him as a warning to believers (Jude 11). The story is recorded in Numbers Chapter 16. Korah was a Levite who led 250 men of renown in a rebellion against Moses. They did not just go to a premature death:

**“AND THE EARTH OPENED ITS MOUTH AND SWALLOWED
THEM UP... ALL THE MEN WITH KORAH...
THEY AND ALL THOSE WITH THEM
WENT DOWN ALIVE INTO THE PIT,
THE EARTH CLOSED OVER THEM,
AND THEY PERISHED FROM AMONG THE CONGREGATION.”**

Num. 16:32-33

Of course, the lesson of Korah is easily ignored with the concept that “God doesn’t do those kind of things anymore under grace.” Did you ever read the story of Ananias and Sapphira in the New Testament? (Acts 6:1-11). All they did was lie to the Holy Spirit and God killed them both instantly!

Let us ponder a few passages that depict what does lie ahead when judgment day takes place. Here are a few things Jesus warns about in the New Testament:

“AND THE LORD SAID, “WHO THEN IS THAT FAITHFUL AND WISE STEWARD, WHOM HIS MASTER WILL MAKE RULER OVER HIS HOUSEHOLD...BLESSED IS THAT SERVANT WHOM HIS MASTER WILL FIND SO DOING WHEN HE COMES. TRULY, I SAY TO YOU THAT HE WILL MAKE HIM RULER OVER ALL THAT HE HAS. BUT IF THAT SERVANT SAYS IN HIS HEART, “MY MASTER IS DELAYING HIS COMING, AND BEGINS TO BEAT THE MENSERVANTS AND MAIDSERVANTS, AND TO EAT AND DRINK AND BE DRUNK, THE MASTER OF THAT SERVANT WILL COME ON A DAY WHEN HE IS NOT LOOKING FOR HIM, AND WILL CUT HIM IN TWO AND APPOINT HIM HIS PORTION WITH THE UNBELIEVERS.”

Luke 12:42-45



Once more, note the division the Word of God makes concerning the people of God (see page 21 again). Here we have the contrasting of two attitudes of the Master’s servant. We are not talking about saved vs. unsaved. Notice the destiny of the evil servant. He receives his portion with the unbelievers. That implies that he is already a believer, doesn’t it? The setting of this story Jesus tells is the coming of the Master. In other words, it is a story about what will happen at the rapture. The moral of the story is that a lifestyle of sin, as a servant of God, is going to lead to that servant inheriting the wrath of His God. We are inundated with the idea that “everybody goes in the rapture” simply because they have been born again. Jesus does not teach this concept. He begins this parable with the warning:

**“THEREFORE YOU ALSO BE READY,
FOR THE SON OF MAN IS COMING
AT AN HOUR YOU DO NOT EXPECT.”**

Luke 16:40

**“THEREFORE YOU ALSO BE READY,
FOR THE SON OF MAN IS COMING
AT AN HOUR YOU DO NOT EXPECT.”**

Luke 16:40

It seems that the central focus of the above passage is used today to present the concept that “No man knows the day nor the hour.” I believe we need to give emphasis to “Therefore you also be ready.” This phrase appears again in another parable of Jesus concerning the rapture:

THE WISE AND THE FOOLISH VIRGINS

**“...THE BRIDGROOM CAME,
AND
THEY
THAT
WERE
READY
WENT IN WITH HIM
TO THE WEDDING...”**

Matt. 25:10



In Luke 12:40 Jesus instructed His disciples, “You also be ready.” In Matthew 25:10 He is prophetically stating that only “they that were ready” went in with Him to the wedding. The other virgins were left behind. I’m sure the unconditional eternal security teachers relegate these left behind as unsaved virgins. Jesus teaches that they are unprepared virgins. We cannot claim to be the espoused virgins to Christ (2 Cor. 11:1-3) and then reject segments of this parable of Jesus as not being for the church. This is the Bridegroom coming for His faithful bride.

What is at fault is the unconditional eternal security doctrine which conveys the idea that there is no readiness needed beyond the new birth. It just is not so!

**“SEE THEN THAT YOU WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY,
NOT AS FOOLS BUT AS WISE...
THEREFORE DO NOT BE UNWISE,
BUT UNDERSTAND WHAT THE WILL OF THE LORD IS.”**

Eph.5:15-17

**“THE
WISE
SHALL
INHERIT
GLORY,**



**BUT
SHAME
SHALL BE
THE
LEGACY
OF
FOOLS.”**

Prov. 3:35

Proverbs has much to say about the wise and the foolish. Paul the apostle also used this contrast to depict the lifestyles of believers. We can see that in the verse above Paul is speaking to believers and exhorting them to walk as wise and not to walk as fools. That means it is possible for a Christian to walk as a fool. The unconditional eternal security position says that anyone who walks in such a manner “really wasn’t saved to begin with.” This is absolute nonsense! The third Chapter of Corinthians alone proves that it is possible to be a carnal Christian.

The bulk of new testament instruction given to believers centers in on how to have a walk worthy of your calling (Eph. 4:1), and how to avoid the pitfalls of backsliding. It is all summed up in Paul’s words above, the wise understand what the will of the Lord is-the foolish do not. What is His will? Here is one expression of His will that we need to embrace:

“YOU ALSO BE READY”

Let me refresh your memory with our present objective. We are pursuing a scriptural analysis of whether the signature statement of the unconditional eternal security movement aligns with the word of God:

**“IF A BELIEVER CONTINUES IN SIN,
GOD WILL TAKE HIM HOME BEFORE HE GOES TOO FAR.
THIS IS WHAT IS MEANT BY JOHN’S STATEMENT DESCRIBING A
BELIEVER WHO “SINS A SIN LEADING UNTO DEATH” (1 Jn. 5:15-16).
NOWHERE DOES THE SCRIPTURE INDICATE THAT HIS ETERNAL
SECURITY IS AT RISK.
IT JUST MEANS HE WILL DIE A PREMATURE DEATH.”**

So far we have seen:

1. NAMES CAN BE BLOTTED OUT OF THE BOOK OF LIFE

(Rev. 22:19, Rev. 3:1-6, Ex. 32:31-33).

2. PAUL TAUGHT THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVERS BEING “CUT OFF” FROM SALVATION JUST AS ISRAEL WAS “CUT OFF”

(Rom. 11:18-22) .

3. THOSE WHO DO NOT OBEY THE TRUTH, BUT OBEY UNRIGHTEOUSNESS WILL RECEIVE “INDIGNATION AND WRATH FROM GOD”

(Rom.2:7-11).

4. WE HAVE SEEN IT IS POSSIBLE TO “DEPART FROM THE LIVING GOD THROUGH AN EVIL HEART OF UNBELIEF AND THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN”

(Heb. 3:12-13).

5. WE HAVE SEEN APOSTATE BELIEVERS THAT ARE “TWICE DEAD”

(Jude 12).

6. PAUL DESCRIBED SOME AS “PARTAKERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT” WHO FELL (Greek.-“APOSTATE”) AWAY AND COULD NOT BE RENEWED TO REPENTANCE”

(Heb. 6:4-6).

7. HE ALSO STATES THAT THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS OF “DRAWING BACK UNTO PERDITION” INSTEAD OF LIVING BY FAITH”

(Heb. 10:36-39).

8. WE SAW JESUS DESCRIBING HIS SERVANTS WHO WILL “GET THEIR PORTION WITH THE UNBELIEVERS AT HIS COMING” BECAUSE OF THEIR EVIL LIFESTYLES.

(Luke 12: 42-45).

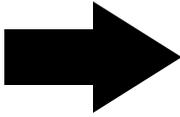
9. ONLY THOSE WHO ARE “FOUND READY” AT HIS COMING ARE RAPTURED AS WISE VIRGINS. THE FOOLISH ARE LEFT BEHIND.

(Luke 16:40, Matt. 25:10).

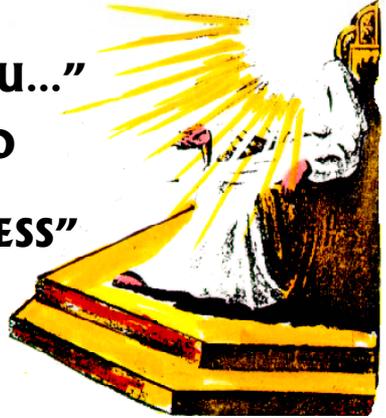
“NOT EVERYONE WHO SAYS TO ME, “LORD, LORD”, SHALL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, BUT HE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN. MANY WILL SAY TO ME IN THAT DAY, “LORD, LORD, HAVE WE NOT PROPHESED IN YOUR NAME, CAST OUT DEMONS IN YOUR NAME, AND DONE MANY WONDERS IN YOUR NAME? “AND THEN I WILL DECLARE TO THEM, “ I NEVER KNEW YOU: DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS!”

Matt. 7:21-23

Look carefully at this two-fold judgment of Christ upon these people:



“I NEVER KNEW YOU...”
“YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS”



They are the same two categories that we looked at previously (page 8)

Unconditional eternal security is not what the Word of God describes as a solid foundation for receiving eternal life. You will remember earlier that Paul gave us the solid foundation of God (2 Tim.2:19) having two seals. Jesus also states these same two as conditional to inheriting eternal life (John 10:27-29).



“THE LORD KNOWS THOSE WHO ARE HIS”
(THEY) DEPART FROM INIQUITY...”

“ AND I KNOW THEM...”
“THEY FOLLOW ME...”



Here in Matthew 7 we have a people who call God, “Lord, Lord”, but they are not going to inherit the kingdom. They lack the true solid foundation of God in their lives. Instead of following Jesus in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake,

**“I NEVER
KNEW YOU...”**
**“YOU WHO
PRACTICE
LAWLESSNESS”**



instead of departing from iniquity after having named the name of Christ, they are charged by Christ with practicing lawlessness. In saying, “I never knew you” some have taken that to mean that they did not belong to Jesus. However, that Greek word translated as “know” often is used to convey an intimate relationship as well as mere knowledge. Here are several examples:

“JOSEPH...TOOK TO HIM HIS WIFE, AND DID NOT KNOW HER TILL SHE HAD BROUGHT FORTH HER FIRSTBORN SON.” Matt. 1:25

“NOW ADAM KNEW EVE HIS WIFE, AND SHE CONCEIVED ...”

Gen. 4:1

AND ADAM KNEW HIS WIFE AGAIN, AND SHE BORE A SON...”

Gen.4:25

“NOW THE WOMAN WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL TO BEHOLD, A VIRGIN; NO MAN HAD KNOWN HER.” Gen. 24:16

“...BRING THEM OUT THAT WE MAY KNOW THEM CARNALLY”

Gen 19:5

Is Jesus saying in Matthew 7:23 that he has no knowledge of who these people are, or is He saying they did not have an intimate (spiritual) love relationship with Him by saying, “I never knew you”? What does it really mean for Jesus to say, “and I know them” ? If it only means He knows who is saved and who is not, how can this be a solid foundation for us? Shouldn’t we also be able to know in a tangible way that “He knows us? The answer is yes, and here is how we can know that God knows us:

**“But IF anyone LOVES GOD,
THIS ONE is KNOWN by Him.”**

1 Cor. 8:3

Now we have a firm definition upon which a solid foundation can rest:

**“But IF anyone LOVES GOD,
THIS ONE is KNOWN by Him.”**

1 Cor. 8:3

God “knows” those who love Him as well as those who do not! How does He know who loves Him? Here is how:



**“HE WHO HAS MY COMMANDMENTS
AND KEEPS THEM, IT IS HE WHO LOVES
ME. AND HE WHO LOVES ME WILL BE
LOVED BY MY FATHER, AND I WILL
LOVE HIM AND MANIFEST MYSELF TO
HIM....IF ANYONE LOVES ME, HE WILL
KEEP MY WORD; AND MY FATHER WILL
LOVE HIM, AND WE WILL COME TO
HIM AND MAKE OUR HOME WITH
HIM. HE WHO DOES NOT LOVE ME
DOES NOT KEEP
MY COMMANDMENTS.”**

John 14:23-24

Is not Jesus describing an intimate relationship reserved for those who love Him? Is it conditional or unconditional? Obviously it is very conditional:

**“But IF anyone LOVES GOD,
THIS ONE is KNOWN by Him.”**

1 Cor. 8:3

To those in Matthew 7 to whom He says, “I never knew you”, He also charges them with something else. He said they practice lawlessness. They prove that they do not love God by their lawless lifestyle therefore God says to them, “I never knew you.” Who does God know? Those who love Him. How do they love God? They keep his commandments. The unconditional eternal security advocates stress God is a loving God. That is half the truth. We need a restoration of the importance of us loving God!

**“...FOR WHAT
FELLOWSHIP HAS
RIGHTEOUSNESS
WITH LAWLESSNESS?”**
2 Cor. 6:14

Shall Christ violate
His own Word?
Shall the King of Righteousness
have fellowship with those who
practice lawlessness?

**“I NEVER
KNEW YOU...”
“YOU WHO
PRACTICE
LAWLESSNESS”**



**“HEAR THE WORD THAT THE LORD HAS SPOKEN AGAINST YOU,
O CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, AGAINST THE WHOLE FAMILY WHICH I
BROUGHT UP FROM THE LAND OF EGYPT, SAYING: YOU ONLY
HAVE I KNOWN OF ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH;
THEREFORE I WILL PUNISH YOU FOR ALL YOUR INIQUITIES.
CAN TWO WALK TOGETHER, UNLESS THEY BE AGREED?”**
Amos 3:1-3

Paul wrote the whole Tenth Chapter of 1 Corinthians in which he used the children of Israel as our examples. His point was that “with most of them God was not well pleased” (1 Cor.10:5). The picture above from Matthew 7 describes New Testament believers with whom God is not well pleased either. They are not going to spend eternity with Christ regardless of the empty words of the doctrine of unconditional eternal security. Let me remind you what the apostle Paul told believers in his day:



**“BUT FORNICATION AND ALL
UNCLEANNES OR COVETOUSNESS,
LET IT NOT EVEN BE NAMED AMONG
YOU AS IS FITTING FOR SAINTS...
FOR YOU KNOW, THAT NO
FORNICATOR, UNCLEAN PERSON,
NOR COVETOUS MAN, WHO IS AN
IDOLATER, HAS ANY INHERITANCE IN
THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND GOD.
LET NO ONE DECEIVE YOU WITH
EMPTY WORDS, FOR BECAUSE OF THESE
THINGS THE WRATH OF GOD
IS COMING UPON
THE SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE.
THEREFORE,
DO NOT BE PARTAKERS WITH THEM.”**

Eph. 5:3-7

“BUT FORNICATION AND ALL UNCLEANNESS OR COVETOUSNESS, LET IT NOT EVEN BE NAMED AMONG YOU AS IS FITTING FOR SAINTS...FOR YOU KNOW, THAT NO FORNICATOR, UNCLEAN PERSON, NOR COVETOUS MAN, WHO IS AN IDOLATER, HAS ANY INHERITANCE IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND GOD. LET NO ONE DECEIVE YOU WITH EMPTY WORDS, FOR BECAUSE OF THESE THINGS THE WRATH OF GOD IS COMING UPON THE SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE. THEREFORE DO NOT BE PARTAKERS WITH THEM.”

Eph. 5:3-7

The empty words of the doctrine of unconditional eternal security attempts to dismiss Paul’s warnings above as not applicable to believers. Dear saint of God, Paul is warning the believer against becoming a partaker of the wrath of God along with the sons of disobedience. Think this thing through! Paul is telling the saints that if they practice fornication, uncleanness or covetousness, they (the saints) will not inherit the kingdom of Christ or of God! If it were not possible for the saints to do so, he would not have said, “let it not even be named among you as fitting for saints.” Neither would he have said “do not become partakers with them” if were not possible to do so. Paul would not endorse the idea carried by unconditional eternal security advocates that those who practice such things really are not saved. What he did endorse is that this kind of behavior by the saved will cause them to become unsaved just like those in Jude 12 who became “twice dead.”

The truth of the matter is that there are eternal ramifications for a believer who practices lawlessness such as Paul enumerates, and it is not limited to a “pre-mature physical death” as the unconditional eternal security position states.

Jesus states:

**“NOT EVERYONE WHO SAYS TO ME,
“LORD, LORD”,
SHALL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN,
BUT HE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER
IN HEAVEN. MANY WILL SAY TO ME IN THAT
DAY, “LORD, LORD, HAVE WE NOT
PROPHESIED IN YOUR NAME, CAST OUT
DEMONS IN YOUR NAME, AND DONE MANY
WONDERS IN YOUR NAME? “AND THEN I
WILL DECLARE TO THEM,
“ I NEVER KNEW YOU:
DEPART FROM ME,
YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS!”**

Matt. 7:21-23

**“I NEVER
KNEW YOU...”**

**“YOU WHO
PRACTICE
LAWLESSNESS”**



“NOT EVERYONE WHO SAYS TO ME, “LORD, LORD”, SHALL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, BUT HE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN. MANY WILL SAY TO ME IN THAT DAY, “LORD, LORD, HAVE WE NOT PROPHESIED IN YOUR NAME, CAST OUT DEMONS IN YOUR NAME, AND DONE MANY WONDERS IN YOUR NAME? “AND THEN I WILL DECLARE TO THEM, “ I NEVER KNEW YOU: DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS!”

Matt. 7:21-23

Is Jesus speaking to BELIEVERS or UNBELIEVERS?



“I NEVER KNEW YOU...”

“YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS”

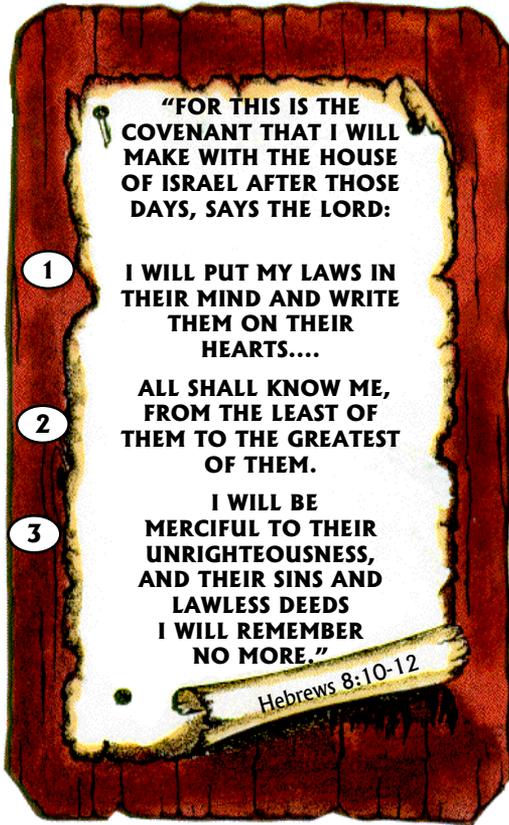


There is one great clause found in these passages from Matthew 7 that prevents these people from so easily being dismissed as unbelievers. It is the fact that they “cast out demons in His name.” This ability is singled out as a sign that follows those who believe (Mark 16:17). As further evidence we must note that the seven sons of Sceva were unable to cast out demons by the name of Jesus that Paul preached” (Acts 19:13-17).

Jesus accuses those in Matthew Chapter Seven of practicing lawlessness. Since the acts of prophesying, casting out demons and working of miracles are all gifts of the Holy Spirit given to the church (1 Cor. 12:3-11), we must then assume that they were recipients of the Holy Spirit. Their lawless deeds were not therefore these manifestations of gifts of the Holy Spirit. Rather Jesus is referring to their corrupt lifestyles rather than their gifts.

In summary, Jesus charges them with practicing lawlessness after having named the name of Christ instead of departing from iniquity. Secondly, they are guilty of lacking the seal, “the Lord knows those who are His.” Due to their corrupt lifestyle of practicing lawlessness, they have never entered into an intimate love relationship with Christ, and for this reason Jesus says to them, “I never knew you.”

Far too many of God's people lack the knowledge of what is spelled out as the terms of the New Covenant. Because this is so, they only believe and practice what they have been taught. Do you know the fullness of your covenant? Let me show it to you:



Do not dismiss what is written here simply because of the fact that it says this covenant will be made with the house of Israel. Hebrews 10:12-19 confirms that it is the present covenant of the church instituted by Jesus through His blood. Paul also attests that we are partakers of Israel's covenant of promise (see Eph. 2:11-16, 3:6, Rom.11)

The point I want you to see is that there are three terms to the covenant. It is not just consisting of the single concept (3) of forgiveness of our sins by his grace.

Yes, God's grace will be merciful to our lawless deeds. However, it is only His laws written on our hearts that will prevent us from continuing to practice lawless deeds like those in Matthew 7. The New Covenant is designed not only to forgive our lawless deeds but to prevent us from continuing in them!

Notice also that this part of the New Covenant calls the least to the greatest of them to know God. This is the intimate relationship that was lacking in those in Matthew 7. Jesus said to them, "I never knew you." Take time to read the letter to the church in Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22). In it, Jesus is portrayed outside His own church seeking fellowship with them (vs.20). How often this verse is given to the unsaved when it was actually written to believers in the church!!

**“AND BECAUSE LAWLESSNESS WILL ABOUND,
THE LOVE OF MANY WILL GROW COLD.”**

Matt. 24:12

Jesus lists above one of the signs that will mark the last days. People will abound in lawlessness. This is the reason why the love of many will grow cold. It is significant that of the four Greek words used in the New Testament to describe love, Jesus uses “agape” in this passage which is the love of God, or God’s kind of love. No one has this kind of love except believers. Notice that it will affect many believers. Matthew 7 also told us that many will be among those that Jesus casts out of His presence for their lawless deeds. What is the antidote? Rather than growing cold, we must become like those in Thessalonica who Paul testified “The love of every one of you abounds...” (2 Thess. 1:3). Only love for God can overcome lawlessness. It is a choice set before us all. My counsel is that, in the midst of this lawless generation, we must set our hearts to:

**“... LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH
ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR
SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.”**

Matthew 22:37



In order to do that, we must embrace the whole New Covenant, not just the one-third that promises forgiveness of our lawless deeds. We need to equally embrace the writing of God’s laws in our minds and on our hearts. Failure to do so can result in a lifestyle of practicing lawless deeds and presuming on the grace of God.

Here is the full message of grace expressed in one flowing sentence for which we have no right to reduce its content. God’s amazing grace came to teach us more than forgiveness of sin:

**“FOR THE GRACE OF GOD THAT BRINGS SALVATION HAS APPEARED
TO ALL MEN, TEACHING US THAT DENYING UNGODLINESS AND
WORLDLY LUSTS, WE SHOULD LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY AND
GODLY IN THE PRESENT AGE, LOOKING FOR THE BLESSED HOPE AND
GLORIOUS APPEARING OF OUR GREAT GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS
CHRIST, WHO GAVE HIMSELF FOR US, THAT HE MIGHT REDEEM US
FROM EVERY LAWLESS DEED AND PURIFY FOR HIMSELF HIS OWN
SPECIAL PEOPLE, ZEALOUS FOR GOOD WORKS.”**

Titus 2:11-14

By now we ought to be able to see the fallacy of this statement held by the unconditional eternal security advocates:

**“IF A BELIEVER CONTINUES IN SIN,
GOD WILL TAKE HIM HOME BEFORE HE GOES TOO FAR.
THIS IS WHAT IS MEANT BY JOHN’S STATEMENT DESCRIBING A
BELIEVER WHO “SINS A SIN LEADING UNTO DEATH” (1 Jn. 5:15-16).
NOWHERE DOES THE SCRIPTURE INDICATE THAT HIS ETERNAL
SECURITY IS AT RISK.
IT JUST MEANS HE WILL DIE A PREMATURE DEATH.”**

Committing sin unto death is not limited to physical death for a believer. It can also have eternal ramifications for the believer as we have seen. The apostle Peter also bears witness to this as well:



**“FOR WHEN THEY (CONTEXT-“FALSE TEACHERS”)
SPEAK GREAT SWELLING WORDS OF EMPTINESS,
THEY ALLURE THROUGH THE LUSTS OF THE FLESH,
THROUGH LICENTIOUSNESS,
THE ONES WHO HAVE ACTUALLY ESCAPED
FROM THOSE WHO LIVE IN ERROR...**

**FOR IF, AFTER THEY HAVE ESCAPED THE POLLUTIONS OF THE
WORLD THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD AND SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST, THEY (THOSE WHO HAVE ESCAPED) ARE
ENTANGLED AGAIN IN THEM (THE POLLUTIONS OF THE WORLD)
AND OVERCOME, THE LATTER END IS WORSE FOR THEM THAN
THE BEGINNING. FOR IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR THEM
NOT TO HAVE KNOWN THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAN
HAVING KNOWN IT, TO TURN FROM THE HOLY COMMANDMENT
DELIVERED TO THEM. BUT IT HAS HAPPENED TO THEM
ACCORDING TO THE TRUE PROVERB:
“A DOG RETURNS TO HIS OWN VOMIT,” AND, “A SOW, HAVING
WASHED, TO HER WALLOWING IN THE MIRE.”**

2 Peter 2:18-22

Recently, I was reading the question/answer column of a well-known unconditional eternal security teacher who was responding to a sincere inquiry about the above verses of 2 Peter. The inquirer specifically pointed out that Peter said these were, “those who have escaped...through the knowledge of Jesus Christ.” Side-stepping the statement, the teacher replied, “This is a story about dogs and pigs-not sheep.” This type of exegesis of Scripture has the potential to make me “madder than a wet hen.” Let us analyze rather than cynically rationalize away what Peter has said to New Testament believers. The contextual setting of Peter’s comments is one in which he is describing backsliding believers-not pigs and dogs!

Read this account carefully for twice Peter identifies these who end up “wallowing in the mire” and “returning to their own vomit” as believers in Jesus Christ “who have actually escaped from those who live in error.”

After identifying who they are, Peter goes on to reveal what they are doing as believers. They have become “entangled again in the pollutions of the world and are overcome by them.”

Because of their present condition, Peter tells us the “latter end” of these believers is going to be worse for them than for unbelievers (think on that!)

Notice too, that it is possible, according to the apostle Peter, to “turn from the holy commandment”.

Peter now likens these same believers to the “dogs and pigs” that they used to be. We were all like dogs and pigs in our behavior prior to receiving Christ. We gratified the lusts of the flesh in our ignorance. However, these are no longer ignorant!

**“FOR WHEN THEY
(CONTEXT-FALSE
TEACHERS) SPEAK
GREAT SWELLING
WORDS OF EMPTINESS,
THEY ALLURE
THROUGH THE LUSTS
OF THE FLESH,
THROUGH
LICENTIOUSNESS, THE
ONES WHO HAVE
ACTUALLY ESCAPED
FROM THOSE WHO LIVE
IN ERROR...FOR IF,
AFTER THEY HAVE
ESCAPED THE
POLLUTIONS OF THE
WORLD THROUGH THE
KNOWLEDGE OF THE
LORD AND SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST, THEY
(THOSE WHO HAVE
ESCAPED) ARE
ENTANGLED AGAIN IN
THEM (THE
POLLUTIONS OF THE
WORLD) AND
OVERCOME, THE
LATTER END IS WORSE
FOR THEM THAN THE
BEGINNING. FOR IT
WOULD HAVE BEEN
BETTER FOR THEM
NOT TO HAVE KNOWN
THE WAY OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAN
HAVING KNOWN IT,
TO TURN FROM THE
HOLY COMMANDMENT
DELIVERED TO THEM.
BUT IT HAS HAPPENED
TO THEM ACCORDING
TO THE TRUE PROVERB:
“A DOG RETURNS TO
HIS OWN VOMIT,”
AND,
“A SOW, HAVING
WASHED, TO HER
WALLOWING
IN THE MIRE.”**

2 Peter 2:18-22

Finally, we must consider that Peter places a great responsibility upon those false teachers who spoke “great swelling words of emptiness” thus causing these believers to be allured by the lusts of the flesh. There shall be much accountability upon those who willfully and blatantly champion the false doctrine of unconditional eternal security with its empty words that stand in conflict with the Word of God. It is no wonder that Jesus said:

“...THEY SPEAK GREAT SWELLING WORDS OF EMPTINESS, THEY ALLURE THROUGH THE LUSTS OF THE FLESH, THROUGH LICENTIOUSNESS, THE ONES WHO HAVE ACTUALLY ESCAPED FROM THOSE WHO LIVE IN ERROR..”
2 Peter 2:18-20

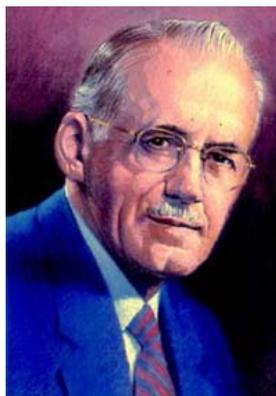
“...IF ANYONE TAKES AWAY FROM THE WORDS OF THE BOOK... GOD SHALL TAKE AWAY HIS PART FROM THE BOOK OF LIFE, AND FROM THE HOLY CITY...”

Rev. 22:19

What Jesus says above about prophecy recorded in the Book of Revelation also applies in principle to the contents of every book of the Bible! (see Deut. 4:2) Remember, “the Word” is Jesus! (Rev. 19:13, Jn. 1:1,14). To take away from what is written in the book is to take away some aspect of who Christ is.

A.W. Tozer once said:

“FAR TOO MANY OF GOD’S PEOPLE FIND IT EASIER TO CHANGE THE IMAGE OF GOD RATHER THAN TO BE CHANGED INTO THE IMAGE OF GOD.”





**“...IF ANYONE TAKES AWAY
FROM THE WORDS OF THE BOOK ...
GOD SHALL TAKE AWAY HIS PART
FROM THE BOOK OF LIFE,
AND FROM THE HOLY CITY...”**

Rev. 22:19

If you do not think God means literally and exactly what He says above, then you need to consider this:

**“HE WHO IS UNJUST, LET HIM BE UNJUST STILL;
HE WHO IS FILTHY, LET HIM BE FILTHY STILL;
HE WHO IS RIGHTEOUS, LET HIM BE RIGHTEOUS STILL;
HE WHO IS HOLY, LET HIM BE HOLY STILL...
BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DO HIS COMMANDMENTS, THAT
THEY MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO THE TREE OF LIFE, AND
MAY ENTER THROUGH
THE GATES INTO THE CITY.
BUT OUTSIDE ARE DOGS AND SORCERERS AND SEXUALLY
IMMORAL AND MURDERERS AND IDOLATERS, AND
WHOEVER LOVES AND PRACTICES A LIE.”**

Rev. 22:11-15

We must ask ourselves who are these people outside the gates? Where do they fit in our theology? Remember that Revelation is in chronological order unfolding the judgment of God which first began with the house of God at the rapture (1 pet. 4:17, rev. 2-3). The last act of God's judgment takes place in Revelation Chapter Twenty depicting the second death in which “Death and Hades give up the dead which are in them” (20:13). Then we read, “And anyone not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (20:15). Finally Chapter Twenty-one and Twenty-two describe the new heavens, new earth and the New Jerusalem.

Dear reader, who are these people that are outside the gates rather than in the lake of fire, whose lifestyle Jesus describes as filled with sorcery (Greek- drugs) sexual immorality (Greek- play the harlot) and murderers, idolaters and those who love and practice a lie (hypocrisy) ?

In light of the fact that New Jerusalem depicts the eternal dwelling place of God's people (Rev. 21:3-4), we must lay hold of this truth, that there are those that are not in the lake of fire, but nevertheless are outside the gates of New Jerusalem which we know to be the final manifestation of the kingdom of God! Remember Paul warned believers:

“BUT FORNICATION AND ALL UNCLEANNESS OR COVETOUSNESS, LET IT NOT EVEN BE NAMED AMONG YOU AS IS FITTING FOR SAINTS...FOR YOU KNOW, THAT NO FORNICATOR, UNCLEAN PERSON, NOR COVETOUS MAN, WHO IS AN IDOLATER, HAS ANY INHERITANCE IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND GOD. LET NO ONE DECEIVE YOU WITH EMPTY WORDS, FOR BECAUSE OF THESE THINGS THE WRATH OF GOD IS COMING UPON THE SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE. THEREFORE DO NOT BE PARTAKERS WITH THEM.”

Eph. 5:3-7

Are we looking at the existence of a third place, other than heaven or hell, in which these people will spend their eternity? Did not Jesus often speak of a place called “outer darkness” where some of His unfaithful servants would end up weeping and gnashing their teeth in utter agony?

“THERE WILL BE WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH, WHEN YOU SEE ABRAHAM AND ISAAC AND JACOB AND ALL THE PROPHETS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND YOURSELVES THRUST OUT.”

Luke 13:28

One must be in the kingdom to be thrust out of the kingdom, true? That is why Paul said, “No fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.” They may be presently part of the kingdom, but they will be among those thrust out of the kingdom in the final hour:

“THE SON OF MAN WILL SEND FORTH HIS ANGELS, AND THEY WILL GATHER OUT OF HIS KINGDOM ALL THINGS THAT OFFEND, AND THOSE WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS...THERE WILL BE WAILING AND GNASHING OF TEETH.”

Matthew 13:41-42

Does Jesus tell us upon what basis that he will execute such judgment upon those in the kingdom? Consider this parable of kingdom stewardship:

"WATCH THEREFORE, FOR YOU KNOW NEITHER THE DAY NOR THE HOUR IN WHICH THE SON OF MAN IS COMING. FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A MAN TRAVELING TO A FAR COUNTRY, WHO CALLED HIS OWN SERVANTS AND DELIVERED HIS GOODS TO THEM. AND TO ONE HE GAVE FIVE TALENTS, TO ANOTHER TWO, AND TO ANOTHER ONE, TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS OWN ABILITY; AND IMMEDIATELY HE WENT ON A JOURNEY. THEN HE WHO HAD RECEIVED THE FIVE TALENTS WENT AND TRADED WITH THEM, AND MADE ANOTHER FIVE TALENTS. AND LIKEWISE HE WHO HAD RECEIVED TWO GAINED TWO MORE ALSO. BUT HE WHO HAD RECEIVED ONE WENT AND DUG IN THE GROUND, AND HID HIS LORD'S MONEY. AFTER A LONG TIME THE LORD OF THOSE SERVANTS CAME AND SETTLED ACCOUNTS WITH THEM. SO HE WHO HAD RECEIVED FIVE TALENTS CAME AND BROUGHT FIVE OTHER TALENTS, SAYING, 'LORD, YOU DELIVERED TO ME FIVE TALENTS; LOOK, I HAVE GAINED FIVE MORE TALENTS BESIDES THEM.' HIS LORD SAID TO HIM, 'WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT; YOU WERE FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS, I WILL MAKE YOU RULER OVER MANY THINGS. ENTER INTO THE JOY OF YOUR LORD.' HE ALSO WHO HAD RECEIVED TWO TALENTS CAME AND SAID, 'LORD, YOU DELIVERED TO ME TWO TALENTS; LOOK, I HAVE GAINED TWO MORE TALENTS BESIDES THEM.' HIS LORD SAID TO HIM, 'WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT; YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS, I WILL MAKE YOU RULER OVER MANY THINGS. ENTER INTO THE JOY OF YOUR LORD. THEN HE WHO HAD RECEIVED THE ONE TALENT CAME AND SAID, 'LORD, I KNEW YOU TO BE A HARD MAN, REAPING WHERE YOU HAVE NOT SOWN, AND GATHERING WHERE YOU HAVE NOT SCATTERED SEED. AND I WAS AFRAID, AND WENT AND HID YOUR TALENT IN THE GROUND. LOOK, THERE YOU HAVE WHAT IS YOURS.' BUT HIS LORD ANSWERED AND SAID TO HIM, 'YOU WICKED AND LAZY SERVANT, YOU KNEW THAT I REAP WHERE I HAVE NOT SOWN, AND GATHER WHERE I HAVE NOT SCATTERED SEED. THEREFORE YOU OUGHT TO HAVE DEPOSITED MY MONEY WITH THE BANKERS, AND AT MY COMING I WOULD HAVE RECEIVED BACK MY OWN WITH INTEREST. 'THEREFORE TAKE THE TALENT FROM HIM, AND GIVE IT TO HIM WHO HAS TEN TALENTS. FOR TO EVERYONE WHO HAS, MORE WILL BE GIVEN, AND HE WILL HAVE ABUNDANCE; BUT FROM HIM WHO DOES NOT HAVE, EVEN WHAT HE HAS WILL BE TAKEN AWAY.

**AND CAST THE UNPROFITABLE SERVANT
INTO THE OUTER DARKNESS.
THERE WILL BE WEeping AND GNASHING OF TEETH."**

Matthew 25:13-30

This parable alone disproves the unconditional eternal security position that pre-mature death is the only possible consequence for a disobedient servant of God. Notice in this parable God did not "take him home" before he sinned against his God. Rather we see that afterward he was cast into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. He does not inherit the kingdom in eternity! This is a picture of spiritual death as well.

Another parable Jesus told about the kingdom of God and the judgment of His servants is found in Matthew 24:42-51. The outcome for the unfaithful servant is the same as the previous parable we examined:

"WATCH THEREFORE, FOR YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT HOUR YOUR LORD IS COMING. BUT KNOW THIS, THAT IF THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE HAD KNOWN WHAT HOUR THE THIEF WOULD COME, HE WOULD HAVE WATCHED AND NOT ALLOWED HIS HOUSE TO BE BROKEN INTO. THEREFORE YOU ALSO BE READY, FOR THE SON OF MAN IS COMING AT AN HOUR WHEN YOU DO NOT EXPECT HIM. WHO THEN IS A FAITHFUL AND WISE SERVANT, WHOM HIS MASTER MADE RULER OVER HIS HOUSEHOLD, TO GIVE THEM FOOD IN DUE SEASON? BLESSED IS THAT SERVANT WHOM HIS MASTER, WHEN HE COMES, WILL FIND SO DOING. ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU THAT HE WILL MAKE HIM RULER OVER ALL HIS GOODS.

BUT IF THAT EVIL SERVANT SAYS IN HIS HEART, 'MY MASTER IS DELAYING HIS COMING,' AND BEGINS TO BEAT HIS FELLOW SERVANTS, AND TO EAT AND DRINK WITH THE DRUNKARDS, THE MASTER OF THAT SERVANT WILL COME ON A DAY WHEN HE IS NOT LOOKING FOR HIM AND AT AN HOUR THAT HE IS NOT AWARE OF, AND WILL CUT HIM IN TWO

AND APPOINT HIM HIS PORTION WITH THE HYPOCRITES. THERE SHALL BE WEeping AND GNASHING OF TEETH."

Matthew 24:42-51

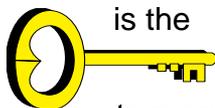
It should be apparent that the above parable is not about the unsaved since they are all identified as the Master's servants. It simply will not stand to say they were never born again in the first place. The unsaved do not appear at the Judgment Seat of Christ to give account of their stewardship. The unsaved will appear at the Great White Throne Judgment. Their destiny is the lake of fire (Rev. 20:15).

The above parable is a story contrasting the faithful servant against the wicked servant. The moral of the story is that they do not receive the same destiny in eternity! How one lives as a Christian is going to impact his eternal position. Do not let anyone deceive you with empty words!

**“AND HE SAID TO THEM,
“DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND THIS PARABLE?
HOW THEN WILL YOU UNDERSTAND
ALL THE PARABLES?”**

Mark 4:13

**THE PARABLE OF
OF
THE SOWER**



is the

to properly
understanding

ALL



THE PARABLES OF:

**THE WISE AND FOOLISH
VIRGINS...
THE FAITHFUL AND UNFAITHFUL
STEWARDS...
THE TALENTS...
THE POUNDS...
THE WHEAT AND THE TARES...
THE LEAVEN...
THE WEDDING FEAST...
THE GREAT SUPPER...
THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT...**

There are hard sayings contained within some of the above parables of Jesus. They cannot be understood properly unless one applies the key parable to them. The position of unconditional eternal security is at odds with the contents of Jesus' forty kingdom parables simply because it denies the possibility of a believer once again becoming an unbeliever. However, Jesus clearly states, in the key parable of the sower, that it is possible:

**“NOW THE PARABLE IS THIS: THE SEED IS THE WORD OF
GOD. THOSE BY THE WAYSIDE ARE THE ONES WHO HEAR;
THEN THE DEVIL COMES AND TAKES AWAY THE WORD
OUT OF THEIR HEARTS, LEST THEY SHOULD
BELIEVE AND BE SAVED.**

**BUT THE ONES ON THE ROCK ARE THOSE WHO, WHEN
THEY HEAR, RECEIVE THE WORD WITH JOY; AND THESE
HAVE NO ROOT, WHO BELIEVE FOR A WHILE AND IN
TIME OF TEMPTATION FALL AWAY.”**

Luke 8:11-13

I have printed two of the four heart conditions Jesus says exists whenever the word of God is sown. The first describes one who did not believe unto salvation. The second however is a contrast of one who received the word with joy and believed for a while but then, later on, when the going got rough, he fell away. Why are the words of Jesus not sufficient proof that it is possible to believe for a while and then to fall away? The context is certainly salvation, is it not? They did receive with joy the word (of salvation).

“NOW THE PARABLE IS THIS: THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD. THOSE BY THE WAYSIDE ARE THE ONES WHO HEAR; THEN THE DEVIL COMES AND TAKES AWAY THE WORD OUT OF THEIR HEARTS, LEST THEY SHOULD BELIEVE AND BE SAVED.

BUT THE ONES ON THE ROCK ARE THOSE WHO, WHEN THEY HEAR, RECEIVE THE WORD WITH JOY;

AND THESE HAVE NO ROOT, WHO BELIEVE FOR A WHILE AND IN TIME OF TEMPTATION FALL AWAY.”

Luke 8:11-13

I have heard those who seek to dismiss what Jesus presents by singling out the statement “and these have no root” as proof that they were never saved. Again, this is a violation of context. Jesus has also stated they received the word with joy, believed for a while, and then, fell away.

The reason they fell away in the time of temptation stems out of the watered-down, costless and crossless brand of “gospel” being presented today, and especially by the unconditional eternal security advocates. Jesus allowed the rich young ruler to walk away unsaved because he was unwilling to count the cost! Today he would have been persuaded that Jesus has a plan for his life designed to bring him into true happiness. The root that must be planted within the heart of converts is discipleship. Today’s message has been reduced to conversion rather than discipleship. Therefore when God allows adversity into such a one’s life, he falls away because he does not understand the purpose of temptation as the apostle James reveals it:

“MY BRETHREN, COUNT IT ALL JOY WHEN YOU FALL INTO VARIOUS TRIALS, KNOWING THAT THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH PRODUCES PATIENCE...BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO ENDURES TEMPTATION; FOR WHEN HE IS PROVED, HE WILL RECEIVE THE CROWN OF LIFE WHICH THE LORD HAS PROMISED TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.”

James 1:2,12

Without this kind of discipleship root being sown in the heart of new converts, they will be subject to fall away when temptation occurs. We are told throughout the gospels to count the cost of following Christ.

There is one more illustration that I want to impart to you which perhaps will help understand more fully the concept of having no root. It too comes from the mouth of Jesus. I believe it fits the old adage that “it is as plain as the nose on your face” in conveying that it is possible to believe for a while and then fall away to total apostasy:

“I AM THE TRUE VINE, AND MY FATHER IS THE VINEDRESSER. EVERY BRANCH IN ME THAT DOES NOT BEAR FRUIT HE TAKES AWAY; AND EVERY BRANCH THAT BEARS FRUIT HE PRUNES, THAT IT MAY BEAR MORE FRUIT. YOU ARE ALREADY CLEAN BECAUSE OF THE WORD WHICH I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU. ABIDE IN ME AND I IN YOU. AS THE BRANCH CANNOT BEAR FRUIT OF ITSELF, UNLESS IT ABIDES IN THE VINE, NEITHER CAN YOU, UNLESS YOU ABIDE IN ME. I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES. HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR WITHOUT ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING. IF ANYONE DOES NOT ABIDE IN ME, HE IS CAST OUT AS A BRANCH AND IS WITHERED; AND THEY GATHER THEM AND THROW THEM INTO THE FIRE, AND THEY ARE BURNED.”

John 15:1-6

Jesus' language above is purposefully kept simple. He does not want it to be misunderstood. It consists of short simplistic terms such as “I am the vine” and “you are the branches”, and “My Father is the vinedresser.” The end result of those who do not abide in Him as branches is not depicted as being unconditionally eternally secure but rather it is bluntly stated as “and they are burned.” Every believer is portrayed as a branch connected to the vine. As long as the branch remains connected to the vine, there is fruit evident, and the Father is glorified by His disciples (vs.8). However, Jesus is using this natural illustration to convey a spiritual truth. There is the danger of the branch becoming broken off, withering, and eventually, burned in the fire. It is an inescapable analogy that some believers are going to face eternal consequences of burning in the fire because they did not remain attached to the vine! It will not hold up that these branches were never saved to begin with. They were in the vine, but chose not to abide in it.

Before we examine what the Bible presents as eternal security, let me first summarize the unsoundness of the tenets of the unconditional eternal security position. There are six premises upon which it rests. All must be described as sinking sand theology. We have used Jesus' words from Matthew 7:21-23 throughout this booklet in which He tells believers:

“NOT EVERYONE WHO SAYS TO ME, “LORD, LORD,” SHALL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, BUT HE WHO DOES THE WILL OF MY FATHER IN HEAVEN.

“MANY WILL SAY TO ME IN THAT DAY, “LORD, LORD, HAVE WE NOT PROPHESED IN YOUR NAME, CAST OUT DEMONS IN YOUR NAME, AND DONE MANY WONDERS IN YOUR NAME? AND THEN I WILL DECLARE TO THEM, “I NEVER KNEW YOU; DEPART FROM ME YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS!”

“I NEVER KNEW YOU...”

“YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS”



Matt. 7:24-27

let us now continue on with Jesus' words:

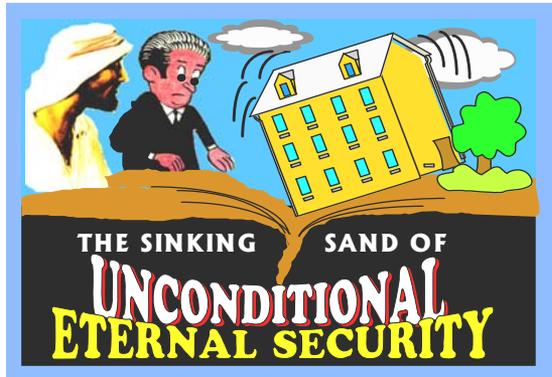
“THEREFORE WHOEVER HEARS THESE SAYINGS OF MINE, AND DOES THEM, I WILL LIKEN HIM TO A WISE MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON THE ROCK: AND THE RAIN DESCENDED, THE FLOODS CAME, AND THE WINDS BLEW AND BEAT ON THAT HOUSE; AND IT DID NOT FALL FOR IT WAS BUILT ON THE ROCK. NOW EVERYONE WHO HEARS THESE SAYINGS OF MINE, AND DOES NOT DO THEM, WILL BE LIKE A FOOLISH MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON THE SAND: AND THE RAIN DESCENDED, THE FLOODS CAME, AND THE WINDS BLEW AND BEAT ON THAT HOUSE; AND IT FELL. AND GREAT WAS ITS FALL.”

Matt. 7:24-27

“...the foolish man built his house on the sand.” Sand theology is a foundation other than the rock of Jesus' sayings. Such “sand theology” is foundations such as “once saved, always saved.” The tenets of unconditional eternal security are built on sand. Jesus says they are foolish people in His sight because their trust is in the sinking sayings of men rather than the solid sayings of Christ.

SINKING SAND:

**“GRACE AND
FORGIVENESS
ARE YOURS
REGARDLESS OF
WHAT IS DONE
IN THE BODY”**



The bulk of this little booklet was written to refute this basic tenet of unconditional eternal security. Everything God gives has conditions as we have seen. If it were true that grace is unconditionally and forever ours, Paul would never have said these words to the contrary:

**“WE THEN, AS WORKERS TOGETHER WITH HIM
ALSO PLEAD WITH YOU NOT TO RECEIVE THE GRACE
OF GOD IN VAIN.”** 2 Cor. 6:1

**“YOU HAVE BECOME ESTRANGED FROM CHRIST...
YOU HAVE FALLEN FROM GRACE.”**

Gal. 5:4

Paul conveys that it is both possible to “receive the grace of God in vain” and also, having received it, to “fall from grace” and become estranged from Christ. These are hardly words qualifying as being spoken to unbelievers. These are believers who received in vain and fell from grace once having been justified. Likewise the idea that forgiveness is forever ours by an unconditional guarantee is folly. It cannot be supported by the Scriptures but rather stands at odds with what is written. Let me show you one way in which forgiveness can be taken away from one who has received it:

**“IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST ANYONE, FORGIVE HIM,
THAT YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN MAY ALSO FORGIVE YOU
YOUR TRESPASSES.**

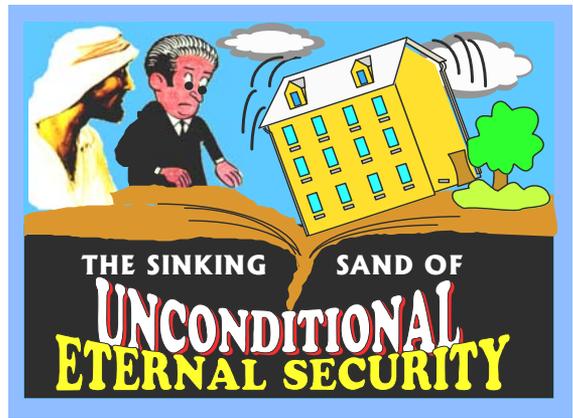
**BUT IF YOU DO NOT FORGIVE,
NEITHER WILL YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN
FORGIVE YOUR TRESPASSES.”**

Mark 11: 25-26

Here is one way in which grace and forgiveness can be lost by what one does (or refuses to do) as a believer!

SINKING SAND:

**“PRE-FORGIVENESS
OF ALL OUR SINS-
PAST,
PRESENT, FUTURE,
ALREADY
UNDER THE BLOOD”**



The above statement qualifies as adding to the words of this book (Rev.22:18). One third of the above statement is true. God has forgiven our past sins:

“...GOD SET FORTH TO BE A PROPITIATION (“MERCY SEAT”) BY HIS BLOOD, THROUGH FAITH, TO DEMONSTRATE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, BECAUSE IN HIS FORBEARANCE GOD HAS PASSED OVER THE SINS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED...”

Romans 3:25

Simply put, God wiped the slate clean with the shedding of His own blood. John states it beautifully as, “To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood” (Rev. 1:5). God also promises to keep the slate clean as we fulfill the specified conditions:

“BUT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT AS HE IS IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM, AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN...”

IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS...

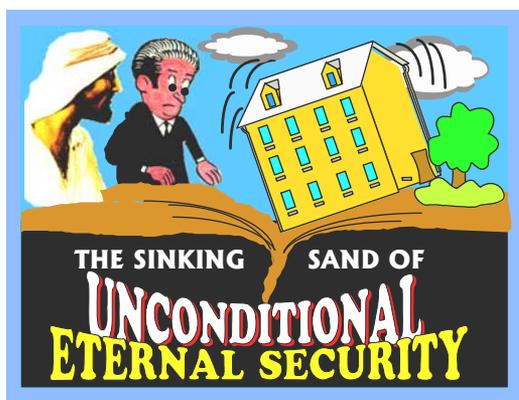
MY LITTLE CHILDREN, I WRITE TO YOU, THAT YOU MAY NOT SIN. AND IF ANYONE SINS, WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS. AND HE HIMSELF IS THE PROPITIATION (“MERCY SEAT”) FOR OUR SINS, AND NOT ONLY FOR OURS ONLY BUT ALSO FOR THE WHOLE WORLD.”

1 John 1:7-9, 2:1-1 excerpts

John is writing to believers admonishing them not to sin, but if they do sin they can find forgiveness through confession. God does not pre-forgive sins. Why is this so? Because Jesus stated as a condition to forgiveness, “If you do not forgive...neither will your Father in Heaven forgive your sins” (Matt.6:15)

SINKING SAND:

**“IF YOU ARE
BORN
INTO THE
FAMILY
OF GOD,
YOU CANNOT
BE “UN-BORN”**



Often the above response is given as “proof” that the new birth is the “sealing of the believer” into an irreversible condition. “That which is born into a family can never be un-born from that family” is circular reasoning (establishing a truth built on itself). Do you know that the Bible does not even say that we are “born into the family of God”? Here is what it does say:

“HAVING PREDESTINED US TO ADOPTION AS SONS BY JESUS CHRIST TO HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO THE GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS WILL...” Eph. 1:5

“FOR YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THE SPIRIT OF BONDAGE AGAIN TO FEAR, BUT YOU RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION BY WHOM WE CRY OUT, “ABBA, FATHER.” Rom. 8:15

“...TO REDEEM THOSE WHO WERE UNDER THE LAW, THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE ADOPTION AS SONS.” Gal. 4:5

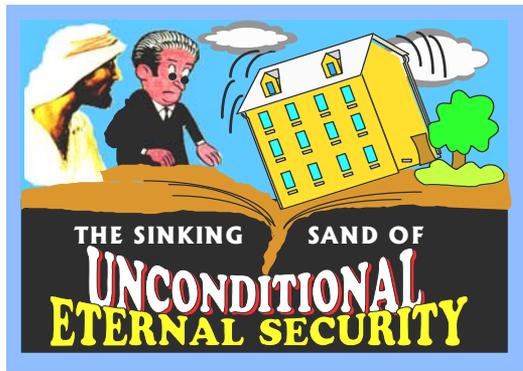
“...EVEN WE OURSELVES GROAN WITHIN OURSELVES, EAGERLY WAITING FOR THE ADOPTION, THE REDEMPTION OF OUR BODY.” Rom. 8:23

“...WHO ARE ISRAELITES, TO WHOM PERTAIN THE ADOPTION, THE GLORY, THE COVENANTS, THE GIVING OF THE LAW, THE SERVICE OF GOD, AND THE PROMISES...” Rom.9:4

The Bible tells us we are “born of the Spirit” (Jn.3:6), “born according to the Spirit” (Gal.4:29), “born of God” (1 Jn.3:9,4:7,5:4,18), but **ADOPTED** into the family of God as stated repeatedly above. So then, if the foundational premise of unconditional eternal security is false, so is the conclusion false that is drawn from it. The question isn’t whether one can be un-born. It is a question of whether having been born of the Spirit, can one then go on to experience spiritual death.

SINKING SAND:

**“YOU ARE GIVEN
ETERNAL LIFE,
THEREFORE IT
CANNOT BE
ANY LESS
THAN ETERNAL”**



Once again we have a statement of circular reasoning used to prove a point based upon itself. The issue isn't whether eternal life is eternal. The issue is when do we literally receive eternal life? Do I currently have it now, or is it a promise to be fulfilled in eternity? Again we will let the Scriptures speak for themselves. Here is what Jesus, Paul, John and Jude have said:

“WHO SHALL NOT RECEIVE A HUNDREDFOLD NOW IN THIS TIME-HOUSES AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND MOTHERS AND CHILDREN AND LANDS, WITH PERSECUTIONS- AND IN THE AGE TO COME, ETERNAL LIFE.”

Mark 10:30

“IN HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE WHICH GOD, WHO CANNOT LIE PROMISED, BEFORE TIME BEGAN.”

Titus 1:2

“BUT YOU O MAN OF GOD...FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH, LAY HOLD OF ETERNAL LIFE, TO WHICH YOU WERE CALLED...”

1 Tim. 6:11-12

“THAT HAVING BEEN JUSTIFIED BY HIS GRACE WE SHOULD BECOME HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE.”

Titus 3:7

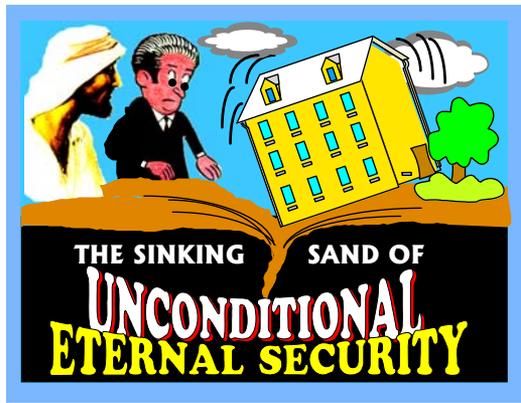
“AND THIS IS THE PROMISE THAT HE HAS PROMISED US ETERNAL LIFE, AND THIS LIFE IS IN HIS SON.” 1 Jn. 5:11

“KEEP YOURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD, LOOKING FOR THE MERCY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST UNTO ETERNAL LIFE.” Jude 21

Eternal life is a future promise-not a present possession. Eternal life will be received in eternity. That is what Jesus and the apostles taught as illustrated in the sample verses above. Follow this theme with a concordance and you will find the same consistent theme. God has promised it to those who believe. It is the promise and the hope that we now possess. We possess the gift by faith. God merely “calls those things which do not exist as though they did” (Rom. 4:17). It is possible to fail to inherit the promise through rebellion and unbelief (see Hebrews 3:18-19, 4:1-2).

SINKING SAND:

“ANYONE WHO PRACTICES SIN WAS NEVER BORN AGAIN IN THE FIRST PLACE”



The above statement is an erroneous conclusion drawn perhaps from the apostle John's statements:

“WHOEVER ABIDES IN HIM DOES NOT SIN. WHOEVER SINS HAS NEITHER SEEN HIM NOR KNOWN HIM....WHOEVER HAS BEEN BORN OF GOD DOES NOT SIN, FOR HIS SEED REMAINS IN HIM; AND HE CANNOT SIN, BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN BORN OF GOD.”

1 John 3:6-9 excerpts

Again I must emphasize the danger of failing to be taught as the Spirit teaches, “comparing spiritual to spiritual” (1 Cor. 2:13). If the apostle John is saying it is impossible for a believer to sin, then what is meant by these other words found in the same epistle?

“MY LITTLE CHILDREN, THESE THINGS I WRITE TO YOU, THAT YOU MAY NOT SIN. AND IF ANYONE SINS, WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUSNESS. AND HE HIMSELF IS THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS...” 1 Jn. 2:1-2

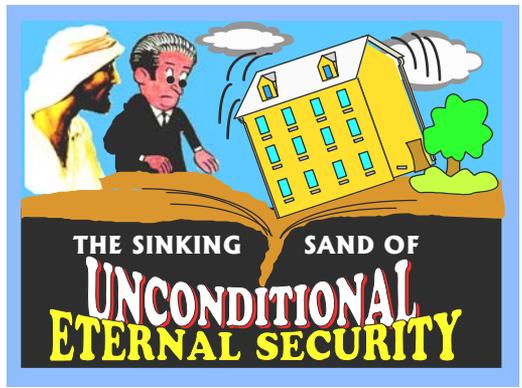
“IF WE SAY THAT WE HAVE NO SIN, WE DECEIVE OURSELVES...” 1 Jn. 1:8

“IF ANYONE SEES HIS BROTHER SINNING A SIN...” 1 Jn. 5:16

How do we harmonize John's words in this same epistle? In the initial passages John is speaking of the Spirit nature born of God. It is perfect and cannot sin. However, we still possess the flesh nature which is only capable of sinning (see Eph. 4:22-24). Note John says, “He who abides in Him does not sin.” That is the same promise Jesus gave in John 15:5. To abide in Christ is to “walk after the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh” (Gal.5:16). The Spirit nature does not sin. A believer who “walks after the flesh will sin.” The epistles are loaded with references to believers not to choose to practice sin (Heb. 3:12-13, 2Tim. 2:19, Heb. 10:26-31, Rom. 8:5-13, Gal. 6:7-8, Gal. 5:21-24, Eph. 5:3-7, Luke 12:42-45, 2 Pet. 2:18-22, Matt. 13:41-42, Luke 13:28, Matt. 25:13-30, Matt. 24:42-51, Jn. 15:6)

SINKING SAND:

“PERHAPS PRE-MATURE PHYSICAL DEATH- BUT NEVER SPIRITUAL DEATH FOR A BELIEVER”



We spent a lot of time looking at this erroneous concept that stands in conflict with the previous tenet that “anyone who practices sin was never really born again”. When backed against the wall by the overwhelming evidence of Scripture that a believer can sin, this adjusted theology comes forth that such a one may experience premature physical death (“God will take him home before he goes too far”), but it can never have any eternal consequences. Not true! The letter of Jesus written to the church of Sardis is sufficient evidence in itself that there are eternal consequences facing an unrepentant believer who, through sin, has defiled his garments.

“TO THE...CHURCH IN SARDIS WRITE... REPENT... IF YOU WILL NOT WATCH, I WILL COME UPON YOU AS A THIEF, AND YOU WILL NOT KNOW WHAT HOUR I WILL COME UPON YOU. YOU HAVE A FEW NAMES EVEN IN SARDIS WHO HAVE NOT DEFILED THEIR GARMENTS; AND THEY SHALL WALK WITH ME IN WHITE; FOR THEY ARE WORTHY. HE WHO OVERCOMES SHALL BE CLOTHED IN WHITE GARMENTS, AND I WILL NOT BLOT OUT HIS NAME FROM THE BOOK OF LIFE... HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES.” Rev. 3:1-6 excerpts

Jesus is clear. It is only the few in Sardis, which have not defiled their garments, that will walk with Jesus in white because they are worthy. It is to this minority of the church of Sardis that Jesus promises not to “blot out their names from the book of life” (Rev. 2:1-6). To the rest whose works Jesus has not found perfect, who remain unrepentant, and will not watch for His coming, Jesus says He will come upon them like a thief. According to Jesus, the consequences of a believer who sins and will not repent is not premature death and then taken home to heaven. Jesus promises such people that they will find Him coming upon them at an hour they do not know-as a thief in the night at the rapture. They are going to be left behind for the tribulation as foolish virgins (Matt. 25:1-13), and may even have their names blotted out of the book of life. We can believe the empty words of man or the inspired words of Jesus.

BIBLICAL 2 Peter 1:1-12

ETERNAL SECURITY



**“SIMON PETER,
A SERVANT AND APOSTLE OF
JESUS CHRIST,
TO THOSE WHO HAVE OBTAINED
LIKE PRECIOUS FAITH WITH US
BY THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF OUR GOD
AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST:**

(2 Peter 1:1)

The opening verse of these 12 passages define to whom Peter is writing. Clearly, it is to believers in Christ. Let me inject the final three verses so that we can see what is Peter’s objective for these believers:

“THEREFORE, BRETHREN, BE EVEN MORE DILIGENT TO MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE, FOR IF YOU DO THESE THINGS YOU WILL NEVER STUMBLE; FOR SO AN ENTRANCE WILL BE SUPPLIED TO YOU ABUNDANTLY INTO THE EVERLASTING KINGDOM OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. THEREFORE I WILL NOT BE NEGLIGENT TO REMIND YOU ALWAYS OF THESE THINGS, THOUGH YOU KNOW THEM, AND ARE ESTABLISHED IN THE PRESENT TRUTH.”

2 Peter 1:10-12

Sandwiched inbetween the opening and closing verses is:

1. How to “make your calling and election sure” (notice it is not automatically accomplished at the new birth).
2. How to obtain an “abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom” (notice this too is not an automatic possession received at the new birth).

Unconditional eternal security conveys the idea that they got it all when they got saved. Peter does not agree. The ability to make your calling and election sure, and to assure an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom are placed as goals to be obtained rather than present possessions.

**“FOR IF THESE THINGS ARE YOURS AND AROUND,
YOU WILL BE NEITHER BARREN NOR UNFRUITFUL
IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST...
THEREFORE BRETHREN, BE EVEN MORE DILIGENT
TO MAKE YOUR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE...”**

2 Peter 1:8,10

**“FOR IF YOU
DO THESE THINGS**

**YOU
WILL NEVER STUMBLE; FOR
SO AN ENTRANCE WILL BE
SUPPLIED TO YOU
ABUNDANTLY INTO THE
EVERLASTING KINGDOM OF
OUR LORD AND SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST.**

2 Peter 1:10-11

**“FOR HE WHO LACKS
THESE THINGS**

**IS
SHORTSIGHTED,
EVEN TO BLINDNESS,
AND HAS
FORGOTTEN
THAT HE WAS
PURGED FROM HIS
OLD SINS.”**

2 Pet. 1:9

Peter is writing by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We must then face the fact that only believers who “add these things to their faith” and “do these things” will:

- 1. MAKE THEIR CALLING AND ELECTION SURE...**
- 2. NEVER STUMBLE... (LIKE PETER DID)**
- 3. SECURE AN ABUNDANT ENTRANCE INTO THE
EVERLASTING KINGDOM OF CHRIST...**

It is important to see that Peter contrasts for us two kinds of believers. The ones who do and the ones who don't. Those who don't are described as spiritually blind even though they were once purged from their old sins. That spiritual blindness can be the result of embracing doctrines such as unconditional eternal security which convey to God's people that they already possess things such as Peter lists above. Peter presents them as goals for the believer rather than present possessions.

Jesus has already warned us about building a house on sand. Paul too warned believers to “take heed how you build” (1 Cor.3:10). He presents the possibility of believers being saved as by fire, but suffering loss of reward in eternity. Which entrance into eternity awaits you, Peter's or Paul's?

“...GIVING ALL DILIGENCE,
ADD TO
YOUR FAITH



**VIRTUE...
KNOWLEDGE...
SELF-CONTROL...
PERSEVERANCE...
GODLINESS...
BROTHERLY KINDNESS...
LOVE.”**

Add to your faith. This is a saying that today will generally bring a negative response. Faith plus nothing is a rampant term in Christendom championed by those who are worried about the infiltration of works into the message of grace. However, the full gospel Paul preached contained works taking place after grace:

**“FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH
FAITH, AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES;
IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD,
NOT OF WORKS, LEST ANYONE SHOULD BOAST.
FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP,
CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS
FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED
BEFOREHAND THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM.”**

Eph. 2:8-10

In telling believers to add to their faith, it should not be viewed as an affront to grace. Remember, Peter is writing unto those who “have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 1:1).

Peter’s list above has nothing to do with the act of becoming saved. It has everything to do with the assurance of remaining saved. It is the biblical guarantee of eternal security both in this present life (“if you do these things you will never stumble”- vs.10), and in the life to come (“so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom- vs.11). It is a very conditional eternal security that Peter describes.

In our closing thoughts, I would like to comment about each of these seven things which Peter singles out as that which constitutes biblical eternal security.

"...GIVING ALL DILIGENCE,

ADD TO YOUR FAITH



**VIRTUE...
KNOWLEDGE...
SELF-CONTROL...
PERSEVERANCE...
GODLINESS...
BROTHERLY KINDNESS...
LOVE."**

VIRTUE

**"WHO CAN FIND A VIRTUOUS WIFE?
FOR HER WORTH IS FAR ABOVE RUBIES."**

Prov.31:10-11



**"THE HEART OF HER HUSBAND SAFELY TRUSTS
HER...SHE DOES HIM GOOD AND NOT EVIL...SHE
WILLINGLY WORKS WITH HER HANDS....SHE GIRDS
HERSELF WITH STRENGTH...SHE EXTENDS HER
HAND TO THE POOR...STRENGTH AND HONOR
ARE HER CLOTHING...SHE OPENS HER MOUTH IN
WISDOM...ON HER TONGUE IS THE LAW OF
KINDNESS...SHE DOES NOT EAT THE BREAD OF
IDLENESS...MANY DAUGHTERS HAVE DONE WELL,
BUT YOU EXCEL THEM ALL."**

Excerpts Proverbs 31

The first item Peter tells us to diligently add to our faith is virtue. Webster defines this word as "moral excellence, valor and fortitude." Proverbs 31:10-31 describe a virtuous wife. The excerpts above show why she is considered virtuous. This proverb is a prophetic depiction of the Bride of Christ, the Lamb's Wife. New converts need to realize that we, as the church, are espoused as chaste virgins to Christ (2 Cor. 11:2). We must choose a virtuous path for our lives, having a walk worthy of our calling as the espoused Bride of Christ (Eph.4:1,5:25-32).

ADD TO YOUR FAITH



KNOWLEDGE

**"...BY KNOWLEDGE THE RIGHTEOUS
WILL BE DELIVERED." PROV. 11:9**

**"...YES, A MAN OF KNOWLEDGE
INCREASES STRENGTH..."**

Prov. 24:5

The second thing Peter tells us to add to our faith which leads to biblical eternal security is knowledge. Peter concludes the epistle in which we find the pathway to biblical eternal security with the mandate to "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18). It is insufficient to remain at the level of the knowledge of Jesus as our Savior. We are to go on to the knowledge of Him as Lord. It is here that we add to our faith that which will lead to eternal security. We come to know Jesus, not only as Savior, but also as Lord of our life.

Pharaoh once said, "who is the Lord that I should obey His voice?" (Ex.5:2). It is possible for God's people not to obey His voice simply because they too, like Pharaoh, do not know who the Lord is. Isaiah the prophet tells us clearly who the Lord is:

**"FOR THE LORD IS OUR JUDGE,
THE LORD IS OUR KING,
THE LORD IS OUR LAWGIVER,
HE WILL SAVE US." Isa. 33:22**

We need to embrace the fullness of who the Lord is. The knowledge of Jesus our Lord as judge, king and lawgiver is what is needed to help motivate us to stay on the straight and narrow path. Most people only know that He will save us." We all, as believers, face a day in court with the Righteous Judge (Rom.14:10-12, 2 Cor. 5:9-11). The word translated as Lord means "supreme in authority, ruler, controller, master." This is why Jesus said, "Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). Jesus is still issuing law as our lawgiver. (law-"that which is right") to govern those in His kingdom (see Heb. 8:10, 2 Cor. 3:3, Rom. 3:31, Jn. 15:21,24). It is the workers of lawlessness that call Him "Lord, Lord" that will be cast out of the kingdom (see Matt. 7:23, 13:41).



ADD TO YOUR FAITH

SELF-CONTROL

**"...SO THAT SATAN DOES NOT TEMPT YOU
BECAUSE OF YOUR LACK OF SELF-CONTROL."**

1 Cor 7:5

The third area Peter tells us to add to our faith in order to make our calling and election sure is self-control. This Christian discipline is given a great pre-eminence in the Scriptures. Consider this example:

**"FELIX...SENT FOR PAUL AND HEARD HIM
CONCERNING THE FAITH IN CHRIST.
NOW AS HE REASONED ABOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS,
SELF-CONTROL AND THE JUDGMENT TO COME,
FELIX WAS AFRAID..."**

Acts 24:24-25

Notice in presenting the faith in Christ to Felix, Paul places the need for self-control right after the need of righteousness. The reason he does so is in light of the judgment to come. The presentation of the faith in Christ today centers only upon laying the foundation of righteousness (faith in Christ's work on the cross). Although this is vital, it is not all that constitutes faith in Christ. Paul is presenting more than the need to receive Christ, but also the necessity to obey Christ. Paul understood that Jesus was not only Savior but Lord. He warned the saints:

**"...WE MAKE IT OUR AIM...
TO BE WELL-PLEASING TO HIM.
FOR WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE
THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST,
THAT EACH ONE MAY RECEIVE THE THINGS DONE
IN THE BODY, ACCORDING TO WHAT HE HAS DONE,
WHETHER GOOD OR BAD.
KNOWING, THEREFORE THE TERROR OF THE LORD,
WE PERSUADE MEN..."**

2 Cor. 5:9-11

God knows that we need self-control. That is why He included it as one of the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). If we lack it, then we open ourselves to Satan's temptations as 1 Corinthians 7:5 points out.



ADD TO YOUR FAITH

PERSEVERANCE

**“.. WE ALSO GLORY IN TRIBULATIONS, KNOWING THAT
TRIBULATION PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE AND PERSEVERANCE
(PRODUCES) CHARACTER...”**

Rom.5:2-4

The fourth thing Peter tells us to add to our faith in order to make our calling and election sure is perseverance. Some translations render this word as patience or endurance. The Amplified Bible renders it “patient endurance.” I like that best for it implies the dual responsibility of “don’t blow up” and “don’t give up”.

Romans tells us:

**“ETERNAL LIFE TO THOSE WHO BY
PATIENT CONTINUANCE IN DOING GOOD...
SEEK IMMORTALITY”**

Rom. 2:7

In our text scripture Paul tells us how we obtain perseverance. It is through tribulation. Paul exhorted the saints “...they strengthened the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, we must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:21-22). James also held the same position, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience (perseverance). But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” (Jm.1:2-4). The call to patient continuance (perseverance) abounds in the epistles. Paul tells us, “Christ...whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence... firm to the end...we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end” (Heb. 3:6,14). Sandwiched inbetween those two verses is the great warning against departing from the living God through unbelief and the deceitfulness of sin.

Today’s theology places all the emphasis upon a “one-time act” of belief. God’s word requires us to continue to believe! If we remain busy going forward, we will not be worried about whether it is possible or impossible to go backward. Eternal security is for the eternally minded! The carnally minded should worry!



ADD TO YOUR FAITH

GODLINESS

**".. GODLINESS IS PROFITABLE FOR ALL THINGS,
HAVING PROMISE OF THE LIFE THAT NOW IS AND OF
THAT WHICH IS TO COME."**

1 Tim. 4:8

The fifth thing Peter tells us to add to our faith to make our calling and election sure is godliness. What is "godliness"?

Most of God's people do not know. When asked to define this word, most Christians begin to describe holiness or sanctification or such as living a good moral life, or obeying God's word. This is not the meaning of godliness. Literally it means "God-ward or toward God." In other words:

GODLINESS IS OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD

Godliness can be stated as:

**"YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD
WITH ALL YOUR HEART,
WITH ALL YOUR SOUL,
AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND (MIGHT)."**

Matt. 22:37

Paul tells us that in the last days men will be lovers of themselves...lovers of money...lovers of pleasure...more than or rather than lovers of God" (see 2 Tim.3:1-4). He goes on to say that these will "have a form of godliness, but deny its power." The word "form" is better translated as "pretense" (see Matt. 15:7-9).

True godliness is transforming. The pretense or form of godliness is in reality a conforming to this present world. It will produce a brand of Christianity that will become lovers of themselves, lovers of money and lovers of pleasure more than, or rather than, lovers of God. Our text reminds us that godliness is profitable. Notice it will impact "the life to come". Paul presented the true grace of God as that which "teaches us to deny ungodliness... living godly in this present age..." (see Titus 2:11-12).



ADD TO YOUR FAITH

BROTHERLY KINDNESS

**“AND LET US NOT GROW WEARY
WHILE DOING GOOD,
FOR IN DUE SEASON WE SHALL REAP IF WE DO NOT LOSE
HEART. THEREFORE, AS WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY,
LET US DO GOOD TO ALL,
ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO ARE OF THE
HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH.”**

Gal. 6:9-10

the sixth area that we are to add to our faith in order to make our calling and election sure is “kindness.” we can find kindness listed among the fruit of the spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). Kindness is also part of the definition Paul gives of love where he says “Love is kind” (1 Cor. 13:4).

Paul, in our text above, calls Christians to be sure to zero in on the household of faith as objects of our doing good. We are to do good to all, but especially to those within God’s family. Actually, a large part of Paul’s epistles address strife and division among the saints. Paul says of those who do so that they are carnal Christians (1 Cor. 3:1-3). In Romans Chapter 8 he warns of the danger of remaining carnally-minded (Rom. 8:5-8). It leads to death as an enemy of God! In Galatians 5:13 we are exhorted through love serve one another. This is the essence of practicing brotherly kindness. Paul goes on in Galatians to warn against “biting and devouring one another” (vs.15). It is easy to love Jesus. It is not as easy to love all the brothers and sisters that also belong to Jesus. Jesus is perfect, but His children are not. God has given us fellow believers so that we may practice the call to brotherly kindness. It is designed to break down the self-centeredness that dominates us through the flesh. Paul’s next words in Galatians 5 are:

**“I SAY THEN:
WALK IN THE SPIRIT,
AND YOU SHALL NOT FULFILL THE LUSTS OF THE FLESH.”**

Gal. 5:16

ADD TO YOUR FAITH



LOVE

**“BUT ABOVE ALL THESE THINGS
PUT ON LOVE WHICH IS THE
BOND OF PERFECTION.”**

Col.3:14

The seventh and final thing which Peter tells us to add to our faith as a requirement to make our calling and election sure is love. Notice in our text above, love is the bond of perfection. Paul tells us in Hebrews Chapter Six not to keep laying the elementary principles of Christ again and again, but to go on to perfection. That perfection is love. Again we find that God has made provision for what we need. One of the fruit of the Spirit is love. so we cannot get away with remaining unloving as believers. Jesus singled out love as the unique mark by which the world would know that we are His disciples:

**“BY THIS ALL WILL KNOW
THAT YOU ARE MY DISCIPLES,
IF YOU HAVE LOVE ONE FOR ANOTHER.”**

Jn.13:35

The lowest form of motivation in Scripture is the fear of the Lord. It causes us to depart from evil (Prov.16:6). Love is the highest form of motivation. It was Paul's love for God that caused him to declare:

**“WHO CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF
CHRIST? SHALL TRIBULATION, OR DISTRESS, OR
PERSECUTION, OR FAMINE, OR NAKEDNESS,
OR PERIL, OR SWORD? ..
FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE KILLED...”**

Rom. 8:35-36

It is easy to see why Peter tells us that love will make our calling and election sure. None of the seven things Paul lists above are strong enough to overcome our love for God. as it is written, “We love Him because He first loved us” (1 Jn.4:19).

My concluding thoughts are the same with which I opened:

ETERNAL SECURITY

BELONGS TO THOSE WHO ARE

ETERNALLY MINDED

“...THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD, WHO WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS”: ETERNAL LIFE TO THOSE WHO BY PATIENT CONTINUANCE IN DOING GOOD SEEK FOR GLORY, HONOR AND IMMORTALITY; BUT TO THOSE WHO ARE SELF-SEEKING AND DO NOT OBEY THE TRUTH, BUT OBEY UNRIGHTEOUSNESS-INDIGNATION AND WRATH, TRIBULATION AND ANGUISH, ON EVERY SOUL OF MAN WHO DOES EVIL... FOR THERE IS NO PARTIALITY WITH GOD”

Rom.2:7-9

I have not sought to strip away the security of the believer from those who seek immortality. I have diligently sought to take away the false foundation that there is no such a thing as “unconditional” eternal security for the worldly, carnally, sensual minded believer. According to God’s word these believers do exist. However, what is needful is to believe what Paul stated is the eternal destiny of such:

“BUT FORNICATION AND ALL UNCLEANNESS OR COVETOUSNESS, LET IT NOT EVEN BE NAMED AMONG YOU AS IS FITTING FOR SAINTS...FOR YOU KNOW, THAT NO FORNICATOR, UNCLEAN PERSON, NOR COVETOUS MAN, WHO IS AN IDOLATER, HAS ANY INHERITANCE IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND GOD. LET NO ONE DECEIVE YOU WITH EMPTY WORDS, FOR BECAUSE OF THESE THINGS THE WRATH OF GOD IS COMING UPON THE SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE.

THEREFORE

DO NOT BE PARTAKERS WITH THEM.”

Eph. 5:3-7

Pastor Randy Shupe

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



"THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE TABERNACLE"
was founded in Pastor Shupe's home in 1980 after serving as a
lay teacher in the Assemblies of God for several years.

The church now resides in this building at
5690 Yukon Street,
in "Olde Town Arvada", Colorado, 80002.

Deeply impressed by the
illustrated teachings of the late
Clarence Larkin, and convinced that
"a picture is worth a thousand
words", Pastor Shupe has combined
his artistic talents with his God-given
gift of revelational teaching.

The illustrations in his books and
videos represent some of the visual
aids he prepares for the
feeding of his flock.



Pastor Randy Shupe

You may reach him by phone at 303-423-1325,
or write to the address above.

His website location is
PastorRandyShupe.com

ETERNAL SECURITY



“ETERNAL SECURITY is rapidly becoming one of the core issues of conflict within the Body of Christ.”

Pastor Randy

Shupe

This little booklet is an exhaustive look at this controversial doctrine. The good news is that the Bible does teach eternal security. The bad news is that it is **NOT UNCONDITIONAL**. It is the addition of this word to a good doctrine that makes it error. There is not one promise in God's Word that is **UNCONDITIONAL**, and that includes salvation. I challenge you to consider all the facts.

the **WAY,** ^{the} **TRUTH,** ^{the} **LIFE**
TABERNACLE



5690 YUKON ST. ARVADA CO. 80002

www.PastorRandyShupe.com